The Middlebury Campus

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College predicts housing shortage

By Katie Flagg
News Editor

With the much-anticipated April room draw rapidly approaching, students planning to live on campus next year are busy scrutinizing floor plans, knocking on strangers' doors and debating living arrangements among friends. An already stressful process, however, could potentially become more nerve-racking. According to Dean of the College Tim Spears, Middlebury College is predicting bed shortages and housing crunches for the upcoming academic year.

"We're projecting we're going to be somewhere in the neighborhood of anywhere between 50 and 55 beds short in the fall," said Spears.

According to Director of Off-Campus Study and Professor of the College David Macey, that number may be even higher. "The projected bed shortage is calculated on the basis of an estimated first-year class that is already below the planned figure of 565 to 570," said Macey. "So the real shortage is actually larger than the current projection."

A predicted 2,386 students will be enrolled next year, says Residential Systems Coordinator Kelly Bevere, not counting special students or off-campus residents. While the College currently has 2,344 beds on campus, that number will drop to 2,329 next year, resulting in the "50-odd bed" shortage, in

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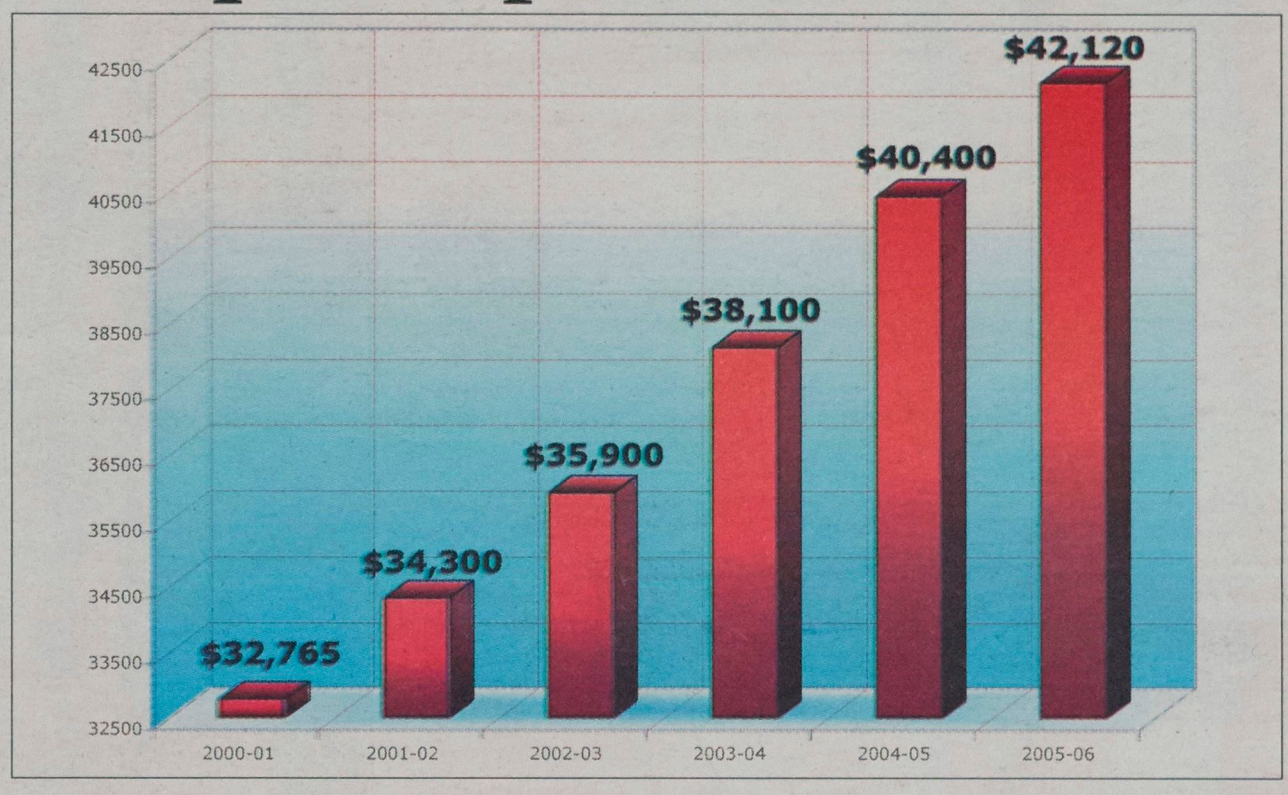
Comp. fee up 4.25% for '05-'06



The numbers speak for themselves. President Ronald D. Liebowitz announced today that the Middlebury College 2005-2006 comprenhsive fee will be a chart-topping $42,120 with a 4.25% increase from last year's fee. For full details, see **pages 12 and 13.**

Presidential tour hits the road

By Andrea M. LaRocca
Associate Editor

In the next few weeks, President Ronald D. Liebowitz will visit four more sites to conclude his eight-city presidential tour. Liebowitz has already visited Denver, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles, and plans to visit Westchester County, Boston, Washington D.C. and New York City by early April.

According to Liebowitz, the tour is "designed to allow the new President to meet our alumni chapters around the country. Parents and alumni are invited to the gatherings, along with additional friends of the College, to a 45-minute presentation by me, followed by a question and answer session and a nice reception."

The primary goal of the events has been to discuss with the greater Middlebury community the strategic planning process that is commencing on campus. "My presentation has been the same in all four cities so far and will be the same for the remaining four: it is a retrospective of where the last strategic plan (of 1992) brought us, where we are today in terms of our academic program, infrastructure, admissions profile, etc., where we do well against our peer institutions and where we lag behind," said Liebowitz. "I also invited parents and alumni to participate in the planning process by completing a survey they will receive in the mail next month, and to send me any questions, ideas, etc. they may have."

Thus far, all of the events have been overwhelming successful. According to Senior Development Officer in College Advancement Meghan Foley '77, about 180 guests, ranging

See Liebowitz, page 5

Award commemorates Class of 2003 'Angels'

Ari Joseph

Angels Award nominees and winner Priscilla Sinclair '07 (second right) pose proudly following Friday's ceremony.

By Mattie Gratch
Staff Writer

Priscilla Sinclair '07 was chosen out of six nominees to receive the 2005 Angels Award on March 11. The fifth annual Four Angels Award Ceremony celebrates the unforgettable lives and legacies of four Middlebury students from the Class of 2003 — Anisa Gamble, Tiffany Holmes, Iniko Johnson and Marika Prewitt — who were killed in a tragic car accident during the spring of their first year at the College.

This is an award honoring the strength, enthusiasm and leadership the four women of color exemplified during their first year. The Angels Award typically acknowledges sophomore women of color who demonstrate exceptional academic success, maintain distinguished leadership capabilities and embody the spirit of the Four Angels during their first year at Middlebury. It encourages diversity and community service on campus. This year one male student — Amaury Sosa — was among the nominees.

The ceremony began with Leroy Nesbitt, senior advisor of Institutional Diversity, welcoming the nominees. "A period of mourning ends, enabling a period of celebration and good memoriam to begin," he said in his opening statement.

The Four Angels' close friends from the class of 2003, Jan'l Hastings-Robinson and Kristin Weyman — both presently commons residential advisors (CRA) in Cook Commons — remembered their experiences with the Four Angels. Hastings-Robinson recalled the enthusiasm and magnetism of the girls. She touched on Gamble's light-heartedness, Holmes' luminous smile, Johnson's ringing laughter and Prewitt's booming voice screaming "Hey, beautiful!" throughout the halls of Battell.

Weyman expressed her admiration of her four friends by reading a passage from Maya Angelou's "Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now," which helped her in her time of mourning. This passage enabled Weyman to put her loss into perspective and she is now able to learn and grow from the zest and passion the Four Angels showed her.

The ceremony proceeded with the announcement of the six Angel Award nominees — Sienna Chambers, Kelly Dennis, Sosa, Sue-Jean Chun Christine Etienne and Sinclair — all from the Class of '07 who were nominated for embodying the posi-

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MIDDBRIEFS

BY DINA MAGARIL, CAROLINE S. STAUFFER AND ALEXXA GOTTHARDT

College searches for Financial Aid director, prepares for new aid model

As the comprehensive fee continues to escalate, Middlebury College is taking extra care in its selection of a new Director for Financial Services in order to make the financial process less stressful for both students and parents. The new director will be in charge of managing $25 million of institutional aid and about $13 million in federal grants loans and work study. A committee is looking for an individual who has knowledge of financial needs analysis packaging as well as federal aid and loans regulation.

The College will be employing a new student financial services model that will utilize a "high-tech, high-touch" approach to financial aid according to Patrick Norton, controller and head of the committee that will appoint the new director. For this reason, the new director must also be familiar with the SCT banner system as it relates to financial aid. The committee created to pick the new director will be comprised of faculty, students and staff from the College.

Most importantly, the new director must have a strong commitment of service to parents and students. The program's goal is to provide high quality financial counseling to prospective as well as current Middlebury students. The committee realizes that finances are a very important aspect of choosing a college and they hope to make each student as comfortable as possible with his or her decision to attend. The financial program hopes to offer as much assistance as possible in deciding how to pay for college and provide options in financing tuition.

The committee is confident that they will find a new director by the July 2005 deadline.

Approximately 40 percent of Middlebury students, however, currently receive financial aid in the form of a college grant. An even higher percentage receives some sort of financial assistance through federal loan programs.

College featured in national media

Middlebury College has graced the pages of several local and national publications in the past few weeks.

Will Mayers, coordinator of the Arabic Language School, was quoted in an article entitled "Arabic Language is in Demand" in USA Today's Lifetime section on March 13. The article noted the national expansion of Arabic language programs and highlighted Middlebury's efforts to recruit from Syria and Egypt to staff its summer programs. It also remarked on the competitiveness of the College's summer program.

On the same day, *The Rutland Herald* featured Jonathan Isham, assistant professor of Economics, and his Winter Term class, "Building the New Climate Movement." Three students from the class helped establish the "flat earth" award as their class project. Isham was pictured with six of his students.

Rick Reilly recounts his experience reporting the story of Butch Varno in his March 7 column in Sports Illustrated. Reilly devoted the last paragraph in his column to memorable stories from the last 20 years. He still gets asked about Varno, a friend of Middlebury who has cerebral palsy.

Middlebury was also selected out of a pool of 900 colleges and universities for inclusion in the Princeton Review's newest book, "College's with a Conscience: 81 Great Schools with Outstanding Community Involvement." The book features a two-page spread on each school selected and hits stands June 21. Criteria for selection included the College's admissions practices and scholarships rewarding community service, support for service-learning programs, student activism and student voice in school governance and the level of social engagement of its student body.

Personette to join Facilities Planning

On April 1, Susan Personette will assume the role of Associate Vice President for Facilities Planning at Middlebury College on a transitional basis. For several months, an administrative board has been in the process of selecting a candidate to fill this position. Personette graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1973 and went on to continue her studies at Yale University where she received her Masters of Architecture in 1981. In 1984, she became a licensed architect. With 24 years of experience as an owner project manager for Genesis Planners Inc. and Capital Projects at MIT and as a licensed architect and project manager in various leading architectural firms, Personette's knowledge of architectural planning spans a broad spectrum. Her expertise includes institutional and academic projects, design and construction phases, contractor, architect and owner relations, budget schedule and scope alignment, conflict resolution and team building and maintenance.

At Middlebury, Personette's skill and guidance will be instrumental in developing the facility plans for the College's future strategic planning process as well as in the administration of College facility operations and maintenance. In addition, she will oversee a $17 million budget to maintain and run the 9,280-acre campus. Personette's influence will also extend outside Middlebury's campus as she will represent the institution on facility issues to members of both local and state regulatory agencies. Personette will assume the position of Associate Vice President for Facilities Planning full time as of July 1.

CORRECTIONS

The photo of the Middlebury men's hockey team on the back page of the March 10th issue of *The Middlebury Campus* was taken by Dave Kingsley of Trinity College. *The Campus* regrets this omission.

IN OTHER NEWS...

Ari Joseph

Leading the FM news charge, Aaron Strumwasser and Conor Stinson, along with Jeannie McIntosh, Alfonso Maraver and Ari Joseph, tackle obscure subjects every Wednesday afternoon on WRMC.

This Week in Middlebury History

Vol. 84, No. 16

March 17, 1989

Parents not enthused by $19,000 tuition for '89-'90

"You're joking! Oh man! That hurts!" were common reactions among parents upon hearing of the 11.7% increase in tuition to $19,000 for the 1989-90 school year. College President Olin Robison released the less than good news on Wednesday.

In justifying the increase, Robison described Middlebury as an "institution that is on the move," in a memo addressed to the College Community. Among the other factors that weighed in the decision to escalate next year's tuition are: the "need-blind" admissions policy, the renovation of the College's residence halls, the construction of the Student and Arts centers, and the "rich and diverse" nature of student social life on campus, according to the memo.

"I think it's unfair," said Earl Arrington, father of Michelle, '90, "but being in business, I know how things move up."

While Robison emphasized in his memo that the tuition increase is meant to insure that "Middlebury College will not fall behind," Arrington expressed concern that the tuition makes Middlebury "somewhat prohibitive for those pushing to pay $16,000-17,000."

Another parent, Randolph Totten, father of Louise, '91, acknowledged that tuition increases are a very complicated topic, but that he "could have some very intelligent people tutor my daughter for considerably less than $19,000."

On a more serious note, Totten expressed concern over exactly where the tuition went. "You would hope that scholarships and capital programs would come from gifts and outside funds, not from tuition."

Totten worries that "Middlebury and institutions like Middlebury are pricing the middle class out of private education."

Another parent commented that the tuition raise is unfair in that it is very short notice for those who have to carefully plan their finances.

"Why didn't they let us know until now?" she said. "People have a right to know. By April, my yearly budget is worked out. It's hard for me to work this in now."

In his memo, President Robison expressed empathy for the financial crush tuition hikes put on parents. "To say that we recognize the sacrifices involved in educating young men and women at Middlebury College is perhaps not to offer much comfort."

In the words of one parent, "No, it's not much comfort."

*** The above text was modified, using original language from its 1989 publication. ***

Community Council makes policy revision recommendation

By Caroline S. Stauffer
News Editor

On Tuesday afternoon the Community Council passed a resolution 12-5-1 recommending a revision to the College's current recruitment policy.

Student Co-Chair of Community Council J.S. Woodward '06 and Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson co-authored the final version of the Council's recommendation to the administration.

The resolution is a version of the faculty resolution passed on Feb. 14 — which removed the clause allowing discriminating employers to hold an open informational meeting instead of signing the nondiscrimination policy — with slightly modified language. The clause was tested for the first time since the implementation of the nondiscrimination policy in early February when Captain David Doucette of the U.S. Marine Corp gave a presentation on the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy toward homosexuality outlined in U.S. Title 10 before getting the go-ahead to recruit on campus.

The recommendation is "in the same spirit" of the recommendation made by the faculty on Feb. 14 but "clarifies the language a bit," according to Woodward.

If adopted by the administration, the updated recruitment policy would prohibit the military from recruiting on campus and obtaining resumes from the College's recruitment bank as long as the organization remains unable to sign the College's nondiscrimination policy.

The Solomon Amendment, which denies schools that refuse to allow the military to recruit on their campuses money from the government, was also discussed at the meeting. Some Middlebury College faculty currently receive money from the government, so the need to avoid a legal suit was highlighted.

The Council meeting included a lengthy debate about the need to define the line between freedom of speech and recruiting.

The proposal specifies that discriminating employers will not be able to participate in Middlebury College recruitment programs, but does not block them from speaking on campus.

If the administration adopts the Council's recommendations, the new policy will read: "The College's protocol with regard to all employers who wish to recruit on campus is to ask that they sign a non-discrimination agreement certifying that the opportunities they offer are available to all qualified Middlebury students, in keeping with our policy prohibiting discrimination in admission or access to its educational or extracurricular programs, activities or facilities, on the expression, age, marital status, place of birth, service in the armed forces of the United States, or against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability."

The Council also discussed the recent proposals to move forward with Arabic and Portuguese language houses, but the proceedings were closed to the press.

College considers CA acquisition

By Caroline S. Stauffer
News Editor

Members of the Program Coordination Group investigating Middlebury's acquisition of the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS) gave a presentation and answered questions Tuesday afternoon in Warner Hemicycle. President Ronald D. Liebowitz was also on hand.

In a report to the faculty, the Coordination Group, which is in charge of considering implications of the College's acquisition of the program wrote, "The opportunity presented by MIIS is significant and should be fully investigated by the College." The committee found "many potential programmatic benefits to acquiring an institution whose strengths seem to complement our own in a variety of ways."

The College would not make a purchase of the graduate institute, but instead would absorb the facilities and responsibilities for its programs and finances. It would function as an entity separate from the College, like the Breadloaf School of English and the graduate programs in languages.

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) has placed MIIS on probation, and the institute is looking for a stronger educational partner "to ensure its long term survival." Vice President for Administration and Treasurer Bob Huth is in charge of assessing financial issues related to the institute.

The Coordination group reported, "While MIIS's current financial resource difficulties are a concern, it seems likely that they could be improved through more advantageous financing of current debt, increasing enrollment in selected programs, professionalizing the MIIS advancement area and focusing on programmatic offerings."

The 700 students at MIIS are enrolled in one of four graduate schools — the Graduate School of International Policy Studies, the Graduate School of Translation and Interpretation, the Fisher Graduate School of International Business and the Graduate School of Language and Educational Linguistics. Two research institutes — the Center for Nonproliferation Studies and the Center for East Asian Studies are also connected with the Institute. Together, the programs offer Master's degrees in International Policy Studies, International Trade Policy, Conference Interpretation, Business Administration, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, Public Administration in International Management, Translation and Translation and Interpretation.

"While the individual MIIS schools offer varying benefits to specific aspects of our academic program, we need to feel that the overall fit is consistent with our position as a liberal arts institution," reported the Coordination group.

So far, "The strategic fit between Middlebury College and MIIS seems to be excellent," the report says.

Mock case closed

Sixiao Huo

Looking to learn more about the College's judicial process, students gathered in the Redfield Proctor Room on Tuesday night to attend a mock judicial hearing. Members of the Academic and Community Judicial Boards conducted a mock trial and deliberated its findings.

OVERSEAS BRIEFING

BY DAVE BARKER

MADRID — There exist slices of America here in Madrid. Homesick students can catch an English movie, watch college basketball at an Irish pub or visit Taste of America, where maple syrup and brownie mix fill in the gaps of the simple and meat-filled Spanish diet. I try to avoid these experiences like I do the Casa de Campo Park at night, home to Madrid's legal and bustling prostitution industry.

I prefer being a looker to finding a hooker. Looking in the windows of the countless tapas bars and delicatessens, that is. One of the best ways to probe into the culture and feel Spanish is to cook Spanish. I enjoy nothing more than strolling from my apartment in the center of Madrid past curing hams, sheep's milk cheeses and Spanish tortilla. After indulging my eyes, I head straight for the San Miguel market near Plaza Mayor to please the palate. I first tackled paella.

The risotto-like rice dish is as Spanish as the mournful stomp of a flamenco dancer. For the first paella go-around, I followed the step-by-step directions to a "quick and easy chicken and chorizo (sausage) paella." I took a shortcut by using three *paella Valenciana* seasoning packets instead of buying each spice individually. Forgive me, Julia Child, for I have sinned. Nonetheless, the final product was tasty.

In the following weeks, I related my paella exploits to several Spaniards who proceeded to tell me about their grandmothers' delectable paellas. Conversations over paella have allowed me to improve my shaky Spanish and have given me new culinary ideas. Recently, I took a plunge.

At San Miguel, a walk past the butcher's case recalls past dissections of various animal parts in an eighth grade science class. I told two butchers that I needed some chicken and *rabbit* for paella. For traditional paella, you need to stray away from traditional poultry. With the introduction of rabbit, I was graduating, getting deeper into the culture.

Instead of getting a few chunks of rabbit, the butcher grabbed one of the skinned creatures on ice and gave me half. Later in the afternoon, after pondering the preparation of the rabbit in my sociology class, I confronted the little bundle wrapped in paper, armed with a frying pan and a bottle of olive oil.

Maybe it was the garlic that masked the smell, but after throwing everything together in the wok, I enjoyed one of the most delicious meals I've had here, save the delicacy of the Middle Eastern kebab.

I suppose I'm ready for a trip to the seafood stand at San Miguel, where the real paellas are constructed. Shrimp, mussels, and the end of seasoning packets await. For now, my paella sure beats brownie mix.

Andrea Gissing

College short "50-odd beds" for fall 2005

Plans made to include lounges, faculty rentals in student housing pool

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Spears's words.

One reason for the drop in capacity next year is the removal of several senior houses from the College's dormitory system. The Blinn Lane House, currently part of Brainerd Commons, will be renovated and converted into a faculty head residence for Ross Commons. The Homer Harris farmhouse is also being taken off-line because of its dilapidated condition.

Further exacerbating the housing shortage are fluctuations in the number of students studying abroad. This year, 60.5 percent of the junior class studied abroad — next year's estimates predict that the number of juniors abroad will fall between 55 and 56 percent. While this year's numbers indicated an unusual spike in study abroad participants, the drop in next year's numbers will result in more students on campus — and more filled beds.

The College's Feb program also plays into the housing and study abroad debate.

"We have a Feb class," said Spears, "that comes in and, historically speaking, they take the place of students who have gone abroad. Over the past few years, though, we've had pretty much the same number of students go abroad in the spring as in the fall, so it's kind of a wash there."

Because the College "can't say for sure exactly how many students are going to go abroad" at this point in time, Spears emphasizes that these numbers are subject to change.

And as Macey points out, the study abroad numbers alone cannot account for the projected housing shortage.

"Even if 60 percent of the junior class were to go abroad, the difference between what we are projecting and the percentage who went away this year only accounts for slightly less than half of the bed shortage," said Macey.

Another reason for the shortage, says Spears, is the fluctuation in enrollment numbers between classes. "What we've been trying to do over the past few years is rectify what's called the 'whip-saw effect.' We've been trying to stabilize our enrollment numbers," he said. "It's trickier stabilizing these numbers than it might seem."

How does the College plan to address these predicted housing shortages?

In past years, Spears said, off campus numbers have acted as a "kind of safety valve" to control overcrowding on campus. According to the College handbook, 65 students are allowed to live off campus in the greater Middlebury area each year. "That number has floated as high as 120 in the last five or six years," says Spears, "and so we've been really determined to keep the number down."

While the College remains committed to keeping off campus numbers low, this year that safety valve will relieve some of the pressure to generate more on campus beds.

"Our goal for next year is probably to allow somewhere in the order of 73 or 74 students to live off campus," said Spears. "Basically we've decided to let everyone who applied to live off-campus to live off-campus."

Other plans to rectify the housing shortage include converting lounges into student housing and pulling faculty rental properties into the student housing pool. The College can gain between 35 and 40 beds from lounges, though the administration acknowledges the dangers of trading communal space for housing.

"It's definitely a disadvantage for students to have to live on a hallway where lounges that are supposed to be there for communal space are being occupied by residents," said Spears. "That's not something that we like to have happen."

Spears noted that the lounges, aside from providing social space, are often in place for emergency purposes, providing flexibility in the housing system.

"There are good reasons to have a little bit of flex within the system so that we can move students from one room to another," he said. "If we're filled to the gills we lose flexibility."

Bevere does not yet know if converted lounges will be included in the upcoming room draw.

Despite the obvious downsides that accompany lounge conversions, the plans to increase capacity may have positive benefits for some students.

"The use of some faculty rentals will be a welcomed addition by seniors," said Bevere. "We used some of these faculty houses a few years ago and the seniors loved the spaces. They were still on campus, but had a smaller space to themselves."

Spears was less enthused about the inclusion of faculty rental properties in the student housing pool. The situation a few years ago was "dicey," he said, when students occupied rental properties near faculty members and their families.

"It didn't work out that well," he admitted. But, said Spears, "This time around we've got a little bit more in the housing stock and there are more properties available and we're going to use that housing stock very selectively and choose rentals that are a little off the beaten track and are not, perhaps, the most desirable properties within the faculty housing stock."

Other complications remain, though. Bevere was unable to confirm whether the housing shortage will affect the commons system. When asked if students interested in continuing in their commons would be able to do so, in spite of the bed shortages, she could not "predict one way or the other."

"I can tell you that at last year's room draw, an overwhelming majority of students who wanted to continue [in their commons] were able to," she said. "I would anticipate the same this year."

Both Bevere and Spears, however, stressed that the projected shortages should not be cause for alarm yet.

"There will be beds available on campus," said Spears. "It's too soon to be really alarmist about these enrollment numbers. We've confronted similarly tight situations in years past and we've managed to solve the problem, so to speak."

Furthermore, Spears noted that the "similarly tight situations" seemed, in the past, to have no ill effect on students' residential experiences on campus.

Bevere was similarly hopeful.

"I don't think students should feel anxious about the bed shortage," she said. "Students are guaranteed on campus housing and we'll find the space. Inevitably, students will get worked up about room draw, but I don't think the expected room shortage should add to that anxiety."

Ari Joseph

06.5'ers Pete Wolkowski, Josh Dihle, Conor Stinson and Scott Guenther opted to postpone their study abroad experiences, adding to the demand for on-campus housing next fall.

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Samuel Morrill

Speaking to a full house on Tuesday night at Atwater Dining Hall, President Ronald D. Liebowitz took to the microphone to answer questions and and address concerns regarding the new enhanced access system. The decision to lock all residence halls 24 hours a day continues to undergo scrutiny as the go-live date grows nearer. The new enhanced security schedule will be put on trial March 17 and 18, and if all goes well, it will be a permanent feature of the College when classes resume after spring break on March 28.
Starting March 9, the Student Government Association (SGA) conducted a schoolwide survey to determine how students felt about the decision to lock dorms 24-hours a day.

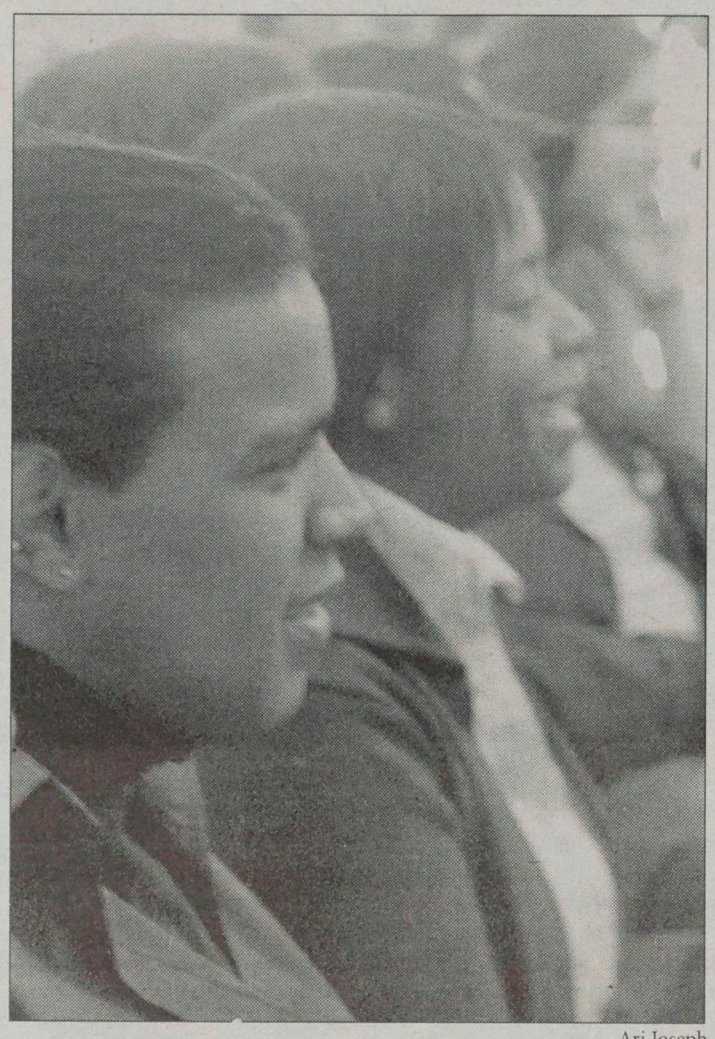
Sinclair garners Angels Award

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tive spirit of the Four Angels.

Chambers was commended as a member of the African American Alliance (AAA), a crucial competitor for the Women's Rugby Team and for working to increase diversity on campus.

Dennis is the Model United Nations secretary general and also participates in the Ivy League Native American Organization at Dartmouth College.



Ari Joseph

Angels Award nominees Amaury Sosa (left) and Sienna Chambers smile during Friday celebration of the lives of the Four Angels.

Sosa is the president of the Alianza Latinoamericana y Caribena, a post he holds in addition to holding numerous board positions on the AAA. Even during his first year at Middlebury, Sosa proved to be an advanced dancer and choreographer in the RIDDIM World Dance Troupe.

Chun, nominated by an anonymous friend, volunteers to teach faculty children gymnastics with her friends. She is the Butch's Team's head tutor here at Middlebury while sharing her passion to cook and occasionally stepping in as Dolci's head chef.

Etienne remains constantly positive and energetic while juggling the duties of vice presidency of AAA and being an editor of Middlebury's Skin Deep Magazine.

Sinclair, a Neuroscience major, was nominated by friend Jackie Laryea '07. "There are certain people in the world that bring a smile to your face every time you see them," Laryea said. "Priscilla Sinclair is one of those people. To name every individual whose day has been made brighter by Priscilla's carefree nature would be impossible. Middlebury would not be the same without her."

Sinclair is active in a wide array of campus activities such as freshman crew, RIDDIM World Dance Troupe, PALANA resident, AAA participant and Snow Bowl ski timer. She also enjoys working at the Admissions Office.

"I get to give tours, where I get a lot of the 'how diverse is that campus' questions, which are a lot of fun for me to answer," said Sinclair.

The Angels Award Selection Committee is annually comprised of a Cook CRA, the RIDDIM director, AAA president and the Dean of Student Affairs at Middlebury. Last year's Angels Award Recipient, Charzetta Nixon '06, Director of RIDDIM, announced Sinclair as the fifth annual Angels Award winner.

The distinguished yet extremely humble Sinclair described her feelings at the conclusion of the ceremony, "As I sat and listened to the description of the Four Angels, I was amazed! Jan'l Hastings-Robinson and Kristin Weyman captured their absolute joy, spunk, playfulness and individuality. No one noticed, but after I sat down tears welled up in my eyes. I did not believe I deserved this award after all of that," she said.

Faculty and staff were equally involved in the evening's proceedings, many of whom acknowledged that they were affected by the four girl's accomplishments during their brief time at Middlebury.

The Four Angels Awards Ceremony was concluded with Middlebury's own Francois Clemmons singing the traditional hymn, "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow," with piano accompaniment.

Sinclair looks back on her experiences during her first two years at Middlebury and offers the students some personal advice. "I hope that everyone knows that the smallest things can mean the most. Nothing goes unnoticed," she said. "Don't be discouraged, for in the end you know what you've done and so does God. Smile, for that can be the light in the darkest hours."

Liebowitz visits eight U.S. cities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from alumni to parents to a student who was accepted early decision for the Class of 2009, attended the Denver event and approximately 160 guests of similar backgrounds attended the San Francisco event. Similar numbers attended the Chicago and Los Angeles events. Foley said that regions were picked based on alumni chapter presence and that printed invitations were sent to all Middlebury alumni and parents in each event's region.

"The San Francisco event was a terrific success," said Alumni Trustee Jed Smith '88. "We had a record turn out. San Francisco is clearly becoming a hub of Middlebury alumni activity. I was impressed that the general response to [President Liebowitz] was overwhelmingly positive. People appreciated his keen focus on details while maintaining a strategic perspective."

Jeanne Lee '99, President of the Rocky Mountain Alumni Chapter and organizer of the Liebowitz's Denver visit, agreed that the Denver event was equally successful. "People were thrilled to have the opportunity to hear from the new president and there were some good questions about changes that have been made and future plans," she said.

Smith pointed out that the presidential tour is especially important because it allows people who are connected to Middlebury but may not be on campus to contribute to the planning process. "Middlebury has many constituents and stakeholders," Smith said. "The parent and alumni base are critical to our understanding of the outside world's perception of the school and their involvement is essential for our future."

As a recent graduate of Middlebury, Lee said that knowing the College is continuing to better itself is welcome news. "I think it's fantastic to see that even after the successful Bicentennial Campaign, the College is not resting on its laurels. As an alum it's easy to get sentimental about the way things were, but the better the school is in the future, the better it is for all of us," she said.

At the four events to come in Westchester County, Boston, Washington D.C. and New York City, Liebowitz said he hopes "to convey a sense of what is happening on campus, what the College's wonderful accomplishments have been over the past two decades, and what I, as President, see as our challenges and in need of our attention and focus in the coming years."

public safety log

MARCH 8, 2005 TO MARCH 13, 2005

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
3/8/05	Unknown	Theft	Cash	Bicentennial Hall	No Suspects
3/10/05	12:00 p.m.	Theft	Jacket	Fletcher Field House	No Suspects
3/10/05	Unknown	Vandalism	N/A	Le Chateau	Referred to Commons Dean
3/11/05	Unknown	Collision	Hit and Run	R Lot	No Suspects
3/12/05	9:15 p.m.	Drug Violation	Marijuana	Fletcher	Referred to Commons Dean
3/13/05	1:37 a.m.	Vandalism	Window Pane	Ross	Referred to Commons Dean
3/13/05	11:57 p.m.	Vandalism	Bulletin Board/Window	Hadley	No Suspects
3/13/05	12:23 p.m.	Vandalism	Laundry Room	Hadley	No Suspects
3/13/05	8:00 a.m.	Unlawful Trespass	N/A	Hepburn	No Suspects

Public Safety reported five cases of alcohol possession by minors this week. These alcohol offenses occurred in Battell, Pearsons, Jewett House and Lang. All offenses were referred to Commons Deans.

COLLEGE SHORTS

BY CAROLINE S. STAUFFER AND THOMAS C. DRESCHER

Senator addresses federal aid issues

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) informed student media reporters from across the country of President Bush's plans to cut funding for collegiate financial aid programs in a conference call Tuesday afternoon. He discussed student loan consolidation and the ramifications the proposed budget cuts will have for students who need financial aid to attend college, such as the elimination of the federally subsidized Perkins Loan Program.

Kennedy also informed students of the legislation he along with Senators Tom Petri (R-WI) and George Miller (D-CA) recently introduced to Congress that would create $17 billion in college scholarship aid at no additional cost to taxpayers. His proposal, known as the Bipartison Student Aid Reward (STAR) act, calls upon the Secretary of Education to chose the more efficient of two aid programs. In the fist program, loans are issued by the U.S. Treasury and private contractors are hired to service and collect student loans. In the second program, private banks and lenders finance the loans, which are subsidized by the federal Government. The first policy is much less expensive and therefore the STAR act encourages colleges and universities to utilize the loans guaranteed by the United States treasury instead of relying on private lenders who are assured a rate of return. Estimates show that the STAR rewards would equal approximately 5.5 percent of the total loans made by participating colleges.

— Star Act 2005

Campus protests force Taco Bell to pay for tomatoes

Taco Bell Corp. recently announced in a press release that it has agreed to pay Floridian tomato suppliers one cent per pound directly for their product, ending a four-year-long nationwide protest campaign orchestrated by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), a community-based worker organization.

The CIW began its extended boycott of Taco Bell in 2001, demanding that the corporation take responsibility for alleged human rights abuses in places where its produce is grown and harvested. The March 8 CIW-endorsed press release stated that the resolution "sets a new standard of social responsibility for the fast-food industry."

Since 2001, committees have been established on campuses in almost every state in an effort to "Boot the Bell" from high schools, colleges and universities.

Taco Bell president Emil Brolick said in a press release, "As an industry leader, we are pleased to lend our support to and work with the CIW to improve working and pay conditions for farm workers in the Florida tomato fields."

Brolick said the company recognizes that many tomato workers "do not enjoy the same rights and conditions as employees in other industries" and believes there is a need for reform. However, he did add in the release that Taco Bell was seeking an "industry-wide" solution.

"This is an important victory for farm workers — one that establishes a new standard of social responsibility for the fast-food industry and makes an immediate material change in the lives of workers," Lucas Benitez, a CIW leader, said in the press release. "This sends a clear challenge to other industry leaders."

— U-Wire

localnews

6
FOSSIL FOOLS
NEW GROUP PLANS TO BIKE FOR A CAUSE

7
NEW MAYOR IN TOWN
VERGENNES SOON TO SEE CHANGES WITH APRIL JIN

Students ride for global climate change

Students gear up for bike ride to Montpelier

By Caitlin Prentice
Staff Writer

On April 1, college students from across Vermont will converge on the state house lawn in Montpelier to support House Bill 49, a climate change action plan for the state. Here's the catch — in order to show their support for cleaner transportation options, students will ride bicycles the 38 miles between Burlington and the capitol. The event, dubbed "Fossil Fools Day," will include a letter writing campaign on the state house lawn, and is being organized primarily by a group of Middlebury students.

The group, known as the Middlebury Climate Campaign, is not an official student organization but started when students teamed up in Assistant Professor of Economics Jon Isham's Winter Term class, "Building the New Climate Movement." Today, the campaign includes over 70 students on its list-share and prides itself in its large and active membership. Kelly Blynn '07 said that the group tries to focus on positive solutions to climate change and not to dwell on negative messages. "We want to empower people to find solutions," she said.

Emily Wheeler '07 is one of the students involved in planning the Fossil Fools bike event. She is particularly excited about the fact that students from many colleges will be involved, including the University of Vermont (UVM) and Green Mountain College.

Students will depart from their respective colleges early on Friday, April 1 and meet in Burlington that morning where they will hop on bikes and make the journey to Montpelier. Upon arrival, students can write letters to Congressmen, listen to legislators' speeches and learn about Bill H 49. The bike ride and the lawn event will raise awareness about the legislation as well as transportation and climate change issues in general. "It's very exciting to see Middlebury kids taking action on issues they believe in," said Wheeler.

Ari Joseph

Convening at their Sunday night meeting, students meet to discuss their upcoming plans to support a new bill.

In addition to the Fossil Fools Day event, the Middlebury Climate Campaign has a busy month ahead, including non-violent civil disobedience training April 3, traveling to meet with the Climate Crisis Coalition in New York City on April 8, participating in Earth Day activities in town April 24 and hosting an Interfaith Climate Change Celebration April 28.

"It's very exciting to see Middlebury kids taking action on issues they believe in."

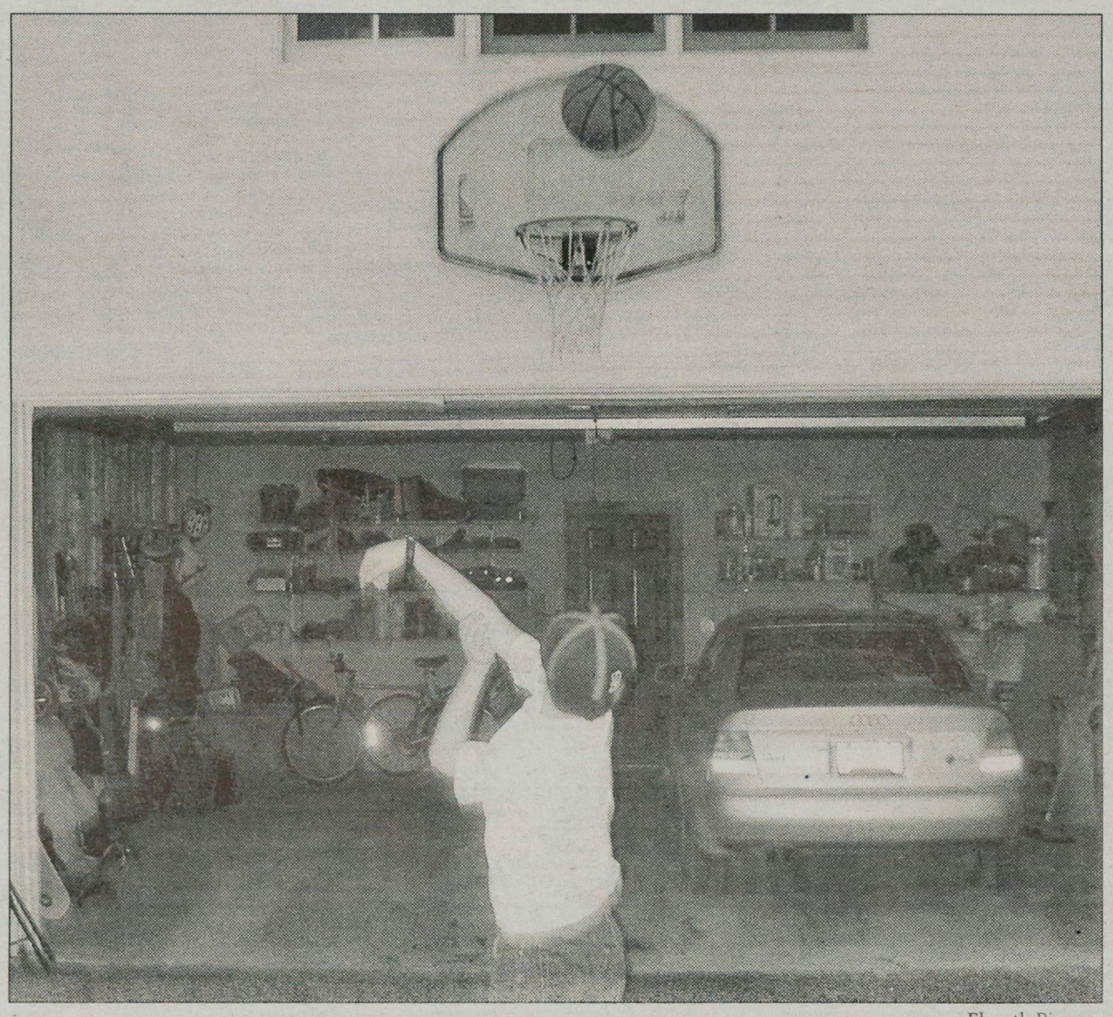
—Emily Wheeler '07

Blynn said that the Coalition tries to provide a variety of opportunities for different people to get involved in the movement. "We try not to make the environment a special interest because it's something that affects everyone," she said.

Will Bates '06 is organizing the Interfaith Climate Change Celebration, which grew out of a contact the group made at the Climate Change Conference at UVM last month. Fred Small, a Unitarian Universalist minister from Massachusetts, will speak at the event in Middlebury about his experiences working with other religious leaders to promote change in regards to the global climate. "If you look back at other large movements, like the Civil Rights Movement, religion and belief were what motivated a lot of people," said Bates. "Climate change is going to effect people all over the world and faith is a motivating factor." The event will also include student speakers from different religious traditions and their perspectives on climate change.

One long-term project that many students in the group are involved in is "The Road to Detroit." Next August, citizens from across the country will converge in Detroit, the symbolic car capitol of the world, to tell automakers that American consumers want fuel-efficient, American-made cars. As with the Fossil Fools event, as many participants as possible will travel to Detroit by bike, hybrid car, or other clean transportation options.

Spring has sprung



Elspeth Pierson

Preparing for the onset of spring, Leo Parini, son of Middlebury D.E. Axinn Professor of English and Creative Writing Jay Parini, enjoys shooting some hoops after a day at Weybridge Elementary. As warmer weather approaches, extended daylight hours allow for after school activities to move outdoors. Continuing with the spring spirit, on Sunday, March 20, a celebration of the Spring Equinox will be held at Spirit of Nature in Ripton. Spirit of Nature is an active community, interfaith environmental group that owns a large tract of land that offers a place for walking and reflection. Founded in 1988 by a group of local naturalists of various faiths, Spirit of Nature strives to connect people of different spiritual traditions and to promote awareness and action among residents of the surrounding area. The festival, which will focus on the balance associated with coming into the spring season, will feature a bonfire and refreshments. Drummers and musicians are welcome. For more information contact Paul at 388-7244.

April arrives in time for spring

By Polly Johnson
Local News Editor

Whether or not you've made the trek to Vergennes, Vt., you've definitely heard of the small town near Middlebury and its quaint Vermont charm. It was established in 1788 as Vermont's first city, and is also its smallest city, being only two square miles in size with a population of 2,700. For its small size, however, Vergennes has an active town life that is ideal for strolling and shopping, and two historical sites, the City Hall and the Opera House, that remain the center of Vergennes cultural life.

On March 1, April Jin was elected as the new mayor of Vergennes. She has been an active member of the Vergennes community for years — previously, she worked for three years on the city council, 11 years as the chairwoman of the Hannaford Career Center board and 12 years on the Vergennes Union High School board. From 1984 – 1988, she was a secretary for the Middlebury College French Department and was elected president of the "Staff Council," which was a group of College employees that was created to promote better working conditions and wages. Her period as president sparked her interest in the importance of politics as a vehicle for helping others. Although many of the French department professors were not here during her time here, Jean Thomson Fulton Professor of French Carol Rifelj noted that "those who were here recall that April Jin took an active interest in matters of concern to College staff members. We are very pleased to learn that her experience in the Department contributed to her involvement in public affairs, and we all congratulate her on her success."

Jin's agenda includes tackling the matters most important to the town and citizens of Vergennes.

Regarding the Vergennes Opera House, there has been recent speculation that air conditioning installed in the Opera House would soon become a tax burden on the citizens of Vergennes. However, President of the Board of Directors of the Vergennes Opera House Joe Perrotto clarified the issue, noting that "The concerns she [Jin] expressed in the recent article were only hypothetical — there are no plans (nor were there ever plans) for the Opera House to pass along to the City the utility charges required to operate our air handling system." He further noted that he clarified that point over the phone with Mayor Jin. The Opera House "has always enjoyed a great working relationship with the City of Vergennes and its elected and administrative officials, and we certainly believe that will continue with Mayor Jin." Jin also said, as reported in the *Addison Independent*, that "The opera house is a wonderful thing. But there are people in this town who frankly don't care, and I don't think they should have to pick up the bill."

"We are very pleased to learn that her experience in the Department contributed to her involvement in public affairs."

—Jean Thomson Fulton Professor of French Carol Rifelj

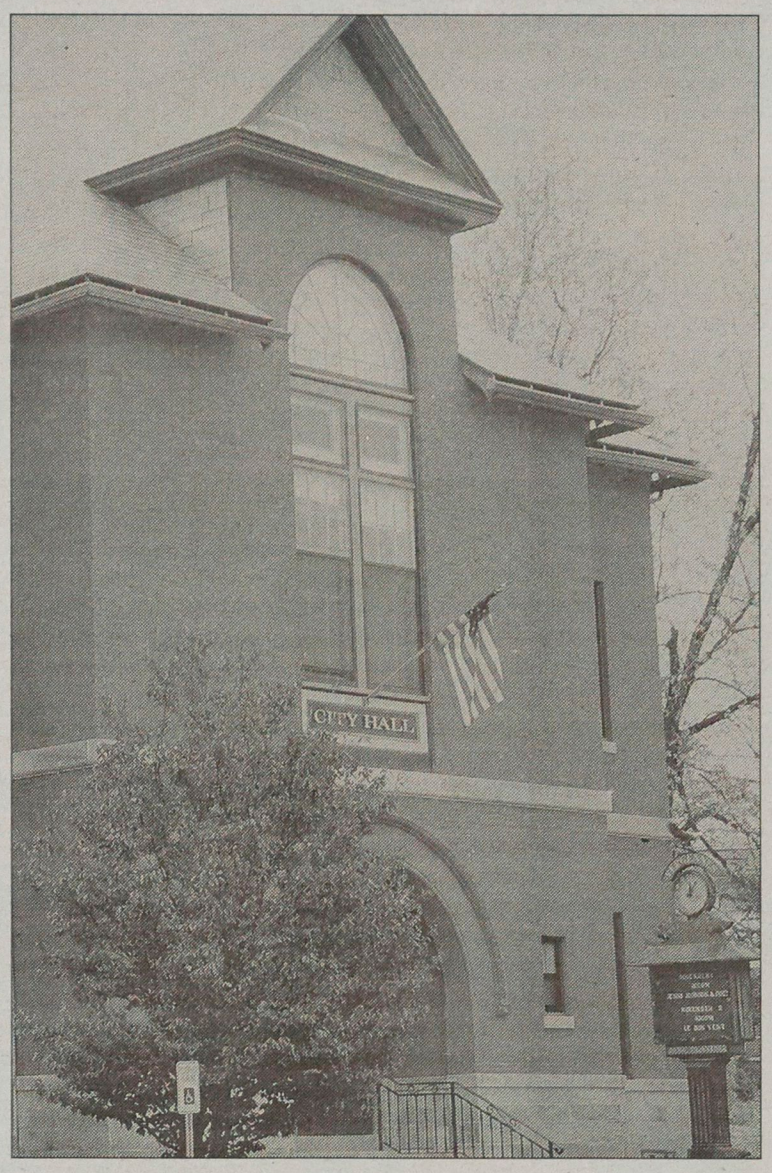
Jin also plans to improve the infrastructure of the city, citing work to be done on many sidewalks of the town, facilitating handicap access. Although the main part of the town is of top priority, she is aware that all parts of the city's infrastructure need to be addressed.

Lastly, she plans to focus on taxes and spending related to Northlands Job Corps, a company located in Vergennes that helps train workers in skills that will assist them in finding a suitable career. She wants the city to receive more money for hosting Northlands Jobs Corps, so that the burden is not on Vergennes taxpayers.

It is clear that Jin has big plans for the small city. She is confident and assured, and has enough experience with the city of Vergennes to lead it in the right direction.

Courtesy

Having been sworn in as mayor on March 1, Jim has already stated her plans for Vergennes, which include changes in policy and infrastructure.



Courtesy

City Hall is one of the historic sites in Vergennes that is the center of the town's cultural life and that new mayor Jin will continue to protect.

VERMONT by the numbers

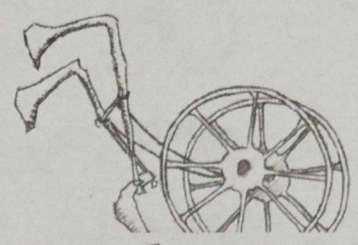
4: The number of mountains in Vermont exceeding 4,000 feet in height.

1791: The year the University of Vermont was founded.

1,500,000: Acres of Vermont that is agricultural farmland.

2.2: Dollars in billions of revenue created by manufacturing, the second largest sector of Vermont's economy.

Sources: vermontvacation.com



Rural Banter

BY ERICA GOODMAN

As if the midterm overload were not enough — I have yet another test for you.

(Have no fear. This score will not affect your GPA.)

Question 1: How do you know if you are a true New Englander?

Answer: You spend $50 on a motion detector security light for outside your house and garage, and then leave both of them unlocked.

Short "Essay" Assignment 1: Sit with your back to a doorway — any one will do — and leave the door wide open. For some, this is an easy exercise. The occasional cool breeze sweeping through is their only discomfort. The refreshing sight of your neighbors as they walk by is a wonderful break from whatever they are doing. Yet for others, the unknown possibility that a dangerous shadow may be lurking around the corner is an unbearable terror. The door MUST REMAIN CLOSED AND LOCKED!!!

The world is essentially broken down into two types of people — those who lock their doors and those who do not. In Real Estate advertising, the no-lock policy is heralded as a virtue, a nostalgic reacquiescence of 1950's suburbia where little boys peddle their Schwinns around the always sunny avenues. Neither group is morally superior or substantially better than the other. It is merely a matter of circumstances.

But why is the crime rate in urban areas substantially greater than in the rural counterparts? Fear of crime is the number one concern in urban areas. It is a never-ending cycle, in which crime forces the affluent flee to the suburbs and leave the poor in the inner cities to try to restore their equity through crime. And so, the doors remain locked, alarm systems set on full alert; isolation at the center of a dense population.

Rural communities, on the other hand, are heralded as less dangerous and doors are generally unlocked. They are smaller and tend to be close-knit, embracing the traditions of mutual self-help and community self-reliance. (Translation — everyone knows everyone in a small community so it is a hundred times more difficult to get away with something). Houses are not on top of each other and so geographical distance is certainly a deterrent; a getaway car is much more obvious when it is the only vehicle busting down the road. Besides, a potential intruder does not know who spends the fall hunting deer. Would you want to meet the other end of a shotgun?

So consider this: what kind of person are you? A locker or a non-locker?

Opinions

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Editorial

Fearsome fee...

It is a grim reality that the influence of inflation can be seen almost everywhere, and in no place is it more apparent than the cost of one year at Middlebury College. This year's already incredible $40,400 comprehensive fee will increase to $42,120 for the 2005-2006 academic year.

President Liebowitz and his staff should be applauded for keeping the increase much lower than it could have been, indeed lower than the 5.1 percent the Student Comprehensive Fee Committee recommended. It is also commendable that this percentage increase is the lowest percentage increase in the past four years. However, the 4.25 percent increase — while low compared to the 6.1 percent change seen last year —translates to an almost $2,000 increase to an already very steep comprehensive fee.

When one works with budgets in the six-plus figure range, it must be easy to forget that $2,000 is a significant amount of money, as is $42,000. But for those footing the bill — especially students who have to take loans or work study into consideration, or parents who may have multiple Midd-kids to see through four years of college — the increase will likely be mind-boggling.

As well, for prospective students who have yet to experience why it may be worth paying so much to attend Middlebury College, the price tag may be what helps them decide between Middlebury and Williams. Also, while it is unlikely that many of Middlebury's peer institutions will have percent-increases less than that of Middlebury, the differences between the base tuition from which the cost will increase is such that is it very unlikely that any other NESCAC comprehensive fee will surpass Middlebury's.

Inflation may make comprehensive fee increases inevitable, however there has to be tangible justifications for the high cost. Supposedly, there will be a significant increase in the number of faculty members as soon as next year. It is changes like this that will make the $42,120 worth paying, not just the wild salmon at the dining hall. Put the money into areas that will make students truly appreciate why the increase was necessary.

Graduating seniors will look at the increase in tuition and remember how their first year at Middlebury cost a mere $34,300. Hopefully the class of 2009 will not feel the same nostalgia. Make it so the value of a Middlebury diploma is not high only because the cost of it is.

Bedlam over beds

Isn't it ironic that the school that discourages students from living off-campus is already faced with a housing shortage for the next academic year, even before admissions decisions are mailed out to the class of 2009?

Right now housing officials are looking for a way to make up the 50-some-odd beds that are needed for current students. Their answer? Letting more students live off-campus and taking houses from rent-paying faculty members. At the same time, on-campus houses are going to be turned into faculty houses. How does this make sense?

Here are some ideas. How about converting storage space into rooms? A triple could be made out of the student storage area in Palmer House. Or rooms could do double duty — laboratory by day, dormitory by night. Hey, students sleep in the chairs in the Great Hall of Bicentennial Hall... It is already a standing joke that some of the best housing on campus comes in the form of "temporary" trailer homes. Now lounge-living looks like it is becoming a permanent reality. It will give new meaning to the description "lounge lizard."

How is this possible? Wasn't the housing shortage supposed to be alleviated by the completion of the Atwater dorms? Sophomores lived in Forrest this year — that must mean something for next year, right?

Every time there has been a housing crunch a creative way has been found to fix it. Who knows, maybe students will return from the summer break to find tents dotting McCullough Lawn. Every student going through room draw considers the possibility of living in a box on Battell Beach — maybe this year it will become a reality.

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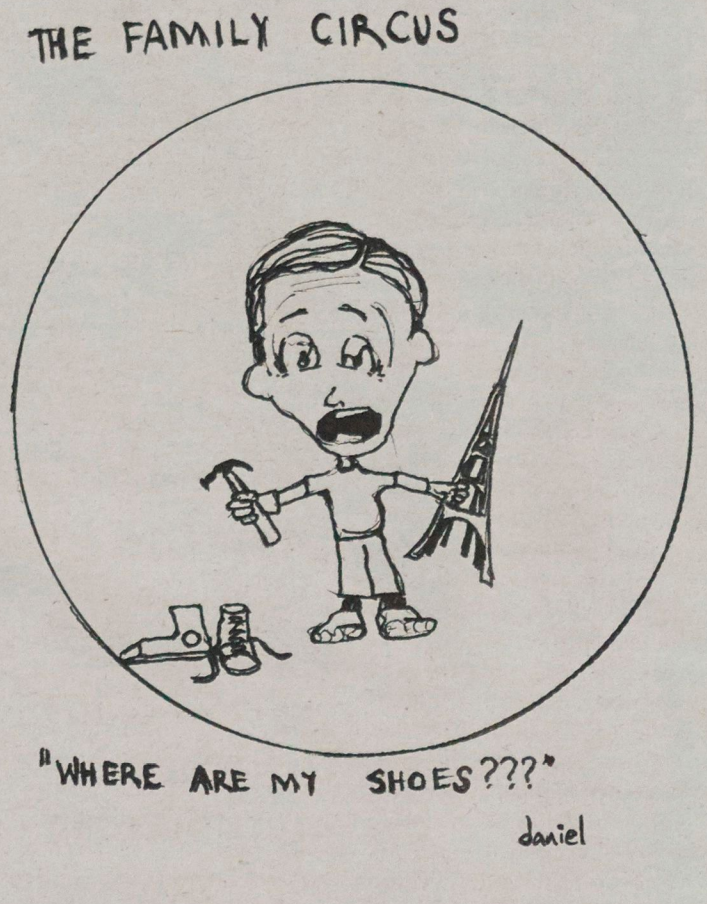


Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to last week's article, "Midd-kids, you have it sooo good." We all have the right to lobby for those issues we find important — global, national, local or personal. Furthermore, we should be grateful, not critical of those individuals who protest issues that do not appear on the front page, as it is often the less visible idiosyncrasies that support discriminatory policies and ideologies.

Midd-kids' protests against the army's recruitment policies may not represent a global issue like "peace in the middle east." Regardless, no individual deserves to have their humanity called into question by a policy that demeans their lifestyle. Moreover, around 24 other nations allow openly gay individuals to serve, including Israel, and it's time for the United States to catch up.

Additionally, Mr. Goldberg argued that Israeli citizens do not whine but rather support their nation's military without protest. What about the growing Israeli Youth Refusers movement whereby young Israelis refuse to enlist so long as their army remains an army of occupation? Noam Bahat, one such refuser, spoke at Middlebury this fall, stressing that he was not renouncing his country, but rather working to improve it.

Finally, the Proctor protest addresses philosophically and fiscally rooted faults in the commons system decentralized dining plan. If these problems are addressed now, future funds can support more pressing areas such as financial aid, grants and stipends for internships, funds to allow more students to have an experience abroad like yours or reinstating the policy recently cut whereby every dining service employee receives a turkey for Christmas — many of whom depend on that for Christmas dinner.

Who gave you the authority to judge the value of their efforts?

Sincerely,
Jennifer Harris
Admissions Counselor

To the Editor:

Regarding the recommendation that students on campus who currently serve, plan to serve or have friends or family serving in the military should create an organization on campus.

I would not be surprised if the policy changes such that the military are prohibited from recruiting on campus. I am not opposed to such a policy. Students with any affiliation with the military — considering, currently serving or having close bonds with those who are serving or have served — should establish an organization that supports their goals and obligations and fosters good will within our community. I would support the efforts of such a group.

Sincerely,
Heidi Schuerger
Oracle Database Specialist
Middlebury College

OPINIONS SUBMISSION POLICY

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's website at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Giuliani is a punk, un-invite him

I am continually amazed at what jerks the people who run this school are. If it's not bad enough that they're working to destroy the campus community with an ineffective lockdown and the universally disliked commons system, now they continue their habit of inviting strikingly inappropriate speakers for major events on campus. Rudy Giuliani is going to be the speaker at my graduation ceremony and it's almost enough to make me move my college career into its sixth year.

In the "article" about the selection in the paper, Eric Davis noted that this is the class who began their college career more or less on September 11 and Giuliani, being one of the most recognizable figures associated with that period, was a good choice to invite. But Giuliani, far from being a moral authority and important symbol for this country, is an authoritarian, a racist and a shill for a president that many, if not most, students here find morally reprehensible.

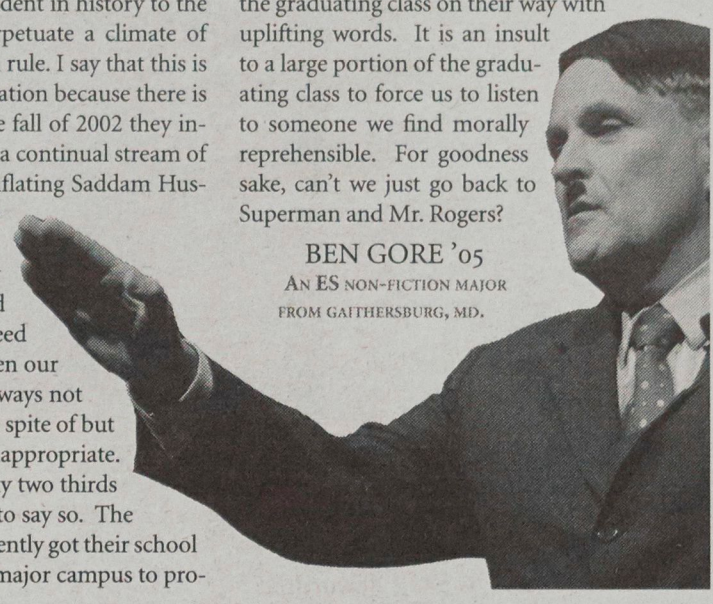
In the school's press release they trumpet Giuliani's "achievements" as mayor of New York City. He reduced crime rates dramatically. He "rejuvenated" neighborhoods. He cut taxes. Bravo. This press release, understandably, represents the white New York elite's view of things — understandably because many of the people that call the shots here, the Trustees, are white billionaire New Yorkers. This view of Giulani's tenure is racist. Why? Because the crime reduction that he achieved — and much of it was due to the overall drop in the use of crack cocaine during the 1990s and not his policies — was based on a campaign of brutality and intimidation against the poor and non-white inhabitants of the city. Even while police murdered an unarmed Haitian immigrant and sodomized a prisoner with a plunger, the mayor disbanded the New York City committee investigating police brutality.

That "rise in property values" and "redevelopment," while a lovely thing for the real estate speculators on the Board of Trustees, is also called gentrification and represents the efforts of the rich to displace the poor. Giulani cracked down on street vendors, depriving many people of their sole source of income. He solved the homelessness problem by authorizing the police to harass them into invisibility. Bravo. Before Sept. 11 Rudolph Giuliani was a controversial politician, and to many people who were not in the elite class, he was coming to be considered a fascist. Then came Sept. 11 and our world became topsy turvy and we looked to strong figures to anchor our reality for us. Giuliani was there so the rest of the country was introduced to him in the context of an ingathering of national unity and saw him be comforting and steadfast. This image is why he is being brought to Middlebury to speak during our graduation.

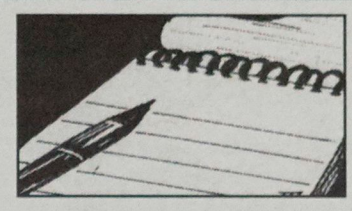
But what did he do with that good will the American people granted him? He used it to ruthlessly and shamelessly exploit our fear and emotions about terrorism. He helped bring the Republic National Convention to New York. He campaigned relentlessly to sell the most authoritarian president in history to the American people and help perpetuate a climate of fear conducive for authoritarian rule. I say that this is a habit of the College administration because there is a precedent for this. During the fall of 2002 they invited Ari Fleischer, then feeding a continual stream of lies to the American people conflating Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden, to receive an alumni achievement award. Mr. Fleischer certainly accomplished a lot, and deserved that award. But why did he need to receive it during a period when our country was being fractured in ways not seen since the early 1970s, not in spite of but because of his work? That was inappropriate. And a crowd equivalent to nearly two thirds of the student body turned out to say so. The College administration inadvertently got their school onto CNN for a day as the first major campus to protest against the war. Bravo. Your idiocy was the anti-war movement's success.

This school claims to like diversity and the search for truth. Why then are we inviting a man who was a symbol of racism and police brutality to many people throughout the 1990s? Why are we inviting a man who used his powerful emotional appeal to campaign for George W. Bush, the man who has done more violence to the concepts of "truth" and "reality" than any other person in recent memory?

The invitation of Giuliani, the glowing, biased press release on his behalf and the shameful piece of faux journalism in *The Campus* are all glaring examples of why Middlebury remains a haven of the white elites of the Northeast and not the crucible of diversity that our Web site and College catalogue pretend we are. I think it would be a gallant step towards remaking the image of this institution to un-invite Giuliani. The commencement speaker should be someone who can speak with moral clarity and send the graduating class on their way with uplifting words. It is an insult to a large portion of the graduating class to force us to listen to someone we find morally reprehensible. For goodness sake, can't we just go back to Superman and Mr. Rogers?



BEN GORE '05
AN ES NON-FICTION MAJOR
FROM GAITHERSBURG, MD.



NOTES
FROM THE DESK

Don't get me wrong; there are a lot of Febs that I love dearly. However, I think one of the things Middlebury College seriously overlooked when designing the Feb program is their placement in upperclassmen housing.

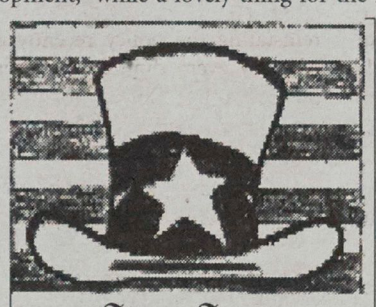
Febs are first-year students, and as first-years, especially new first-years, they are prone to the characteristics that typify those their age. They are excited, to say the least — as I certainly was upon my arrival at Middlebury College — but in some cases, I think their excitement is a little long lasting. Most of the upperclassmen I know spend a lot of time on homework — the Febs that I have met this year, and those that live near me, don't seem to have settled in to the pattern typical of a Midd-kid. The Febs who live near me have channeled their seemingly boundless energy into consuming copious amounts of alcohol and marijuana at all times of the day and night and all days of the week.

Now, I enjoy socialization, and generally spend one weekend night attending parties where alcohol is consumed, but there is something wrong with engaging in these activities loudly on, say, a Tuesday at 11 a.m. or, even worse, at 2 a.m. and disturbing the peaceful slumber of the upperclassman next door. I personally, do not enjoy working on a midterm paper while the Febs next door blare music loudly and drink a "40."

Living in an upperclassmen dorm is a completely disparate experience from that of a first-year dorm. Gone are the days of constant socialization and attempting to find your niche. Instead, we are more focused, in general, on succeeding in the place we have made for ourselves in this diverse community. I realize they are first-years and that they have just flown the coop, but when they are living intermingled with upperclassmen just trying to make it through their homework for the week, I just wish they could be a little more courteous about their activities and attempt to blend in just a little more.

It's highly probable that not all Febs are like the Febs on my hall. I am sure there are Febs who mire themselves in work even more than I do. And, perhaps in my old age I am turning crotchety and should be more appreciative of the youth of my neighbors. However, rude behavior can only be tolerated for so long. First-year Febs, it's time to grow up.

SONJA PEDERSEN-GREEN
OPINIONS EDITOR



Sam Says
A Political Commentary
By Sam Wilson

Bush dogma needs a reality check

One of the things that really bugs me about the Bush Administration is how often its rhetoric has nothing to do with reality.

We heard about Iraqi ties to al-Qaeda, and Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, both of which ended up being bogus. Then we heard about a Social Security crisis happening now. That being correct only if "now" means about 40 years from now, and "crisis" means easily fixable problem.

And of course to keep the public from catching onto the gulf betwixt reality and rhetoric, the press corps has to be kept in line. And this is why journalists get money from the government to promote the President's agenda, with no disclosure. And this is why "Jeff Gannon," legally known as James Guckert gets into White House press briefings to toss lobs at Scott McClellan.

And then there are the beautiful times where the reality/rhetoric discrepancy merges with the secretive manipulation of the press to create a truly beautiful bit of monkey mung.

A few months ago, you may recall, the administration got caught sending out videos of news reports to local news agencies. The problem with the videos was that the government never alerted the locals that it had produced the videos. They were taken for legitimate reporting.

This caused a little tiff. The Government Accountability Office (GAO), the nonpartisan investigative arm of Congress, went so far as to call these videos "covert propaganda," and let drop that it was most likely illegal. When questioned about this, the President declared it wrong and said it should stop. Kudos for him on that.

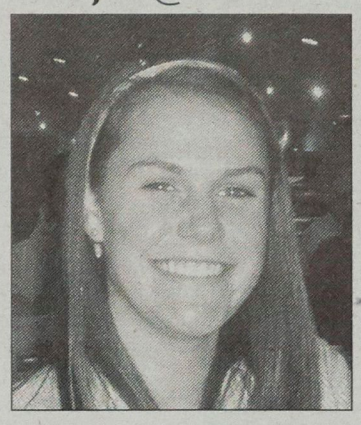
However, as this baby-scandal lacked sex, drugs, violence or anything else titillating or fantastical it quickly faded from public consciousness. So now I find myself getting bugged by the administration. With this boop-boop-scandal out of the light, the administration has decided that maybe it is not so wrong, and does not need to stop, it just needs some unethical justification.

Last week the Justice Department issued an opinion declaring that the practice is appropriate as long as the information contained is factual. The GAO, remember, is nonpartisan and they called the practice "propaganda" and illegal. The Justice Department is headed by Alberto Gonzales. During his confirmation hearings it was universally recognized that his loyalty to the President was among his higher qualities.

And while these videos are not blatant ideological preaching — as far as I know they do not declare anything like "Democrats kill puppies" — they are also not objective journalism. *The New York Times* reported that many of these reports cherrypicked the most favorable "facts" they could find in an apparent attempt to promote the President's agenda. The video clips also often omit any information that does not buttress the Administration's goals.

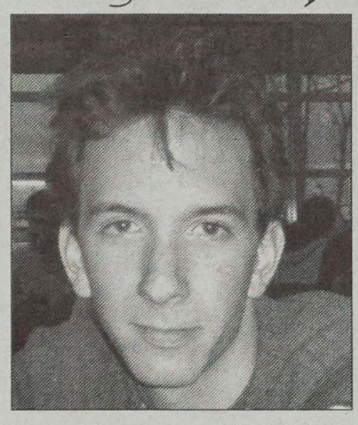
It is wrong but is it also appropriate? I just get bugged when rhetoric is so divorced from reality.

The Middlebury Campus online poll



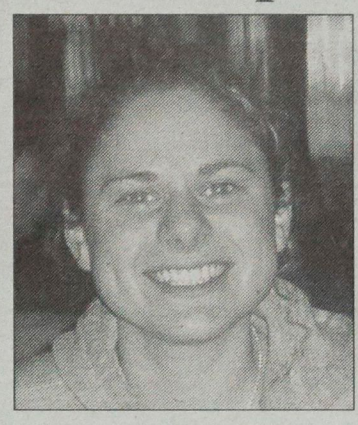
I DISSAPROVE. IT DETRACTS FROM THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY.

—LAUREN VAN WAGENEN '08



I THINK IT'S STUPID. I CAN PLAY VIDEO GAMES DRUNK, BUT I CAN'T WORK THE LOCKS. IF I CAN'T GET IN, I CAN'T GAME.

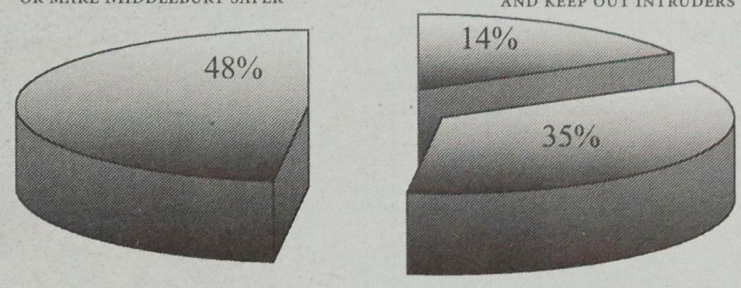
—DAN FROST '06.5



IT MAKES SOCIAL ACTIVITIES MORE OF A CHALLENGE.

—CHRISTINE GRIMALDI '08

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT 24-HOUR LOCKDOWN ON RESIDENCE HALLS?


IT'S A BAD IDEA AND WILL DO NOTHING TO KEEP OUT INTRUDERS OR MAKE MIDDLEBURY SAFER
48%
I THINK IT IS GOOD — IT WILL MAKE OUR CAMPUS A SAFER PLACE AND KEEP OUT INTRUDERS
14%
35%
I'M NOT SURE IT'S NECESSARY — MIDDLEBURY SEEMS PRETTY SAFE TO ME

Results based on 85 responses collected between March 9 and March 15 at www.middleburycampus.com

NEXT WEEK'S POLL QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU THINK OF RUDOLPH GIULIANI AS A GRADUATION SPEAKER?

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AAA Comedy Night — a knee slapper

By Nick Fager
Staff Writer

Last Friday, Middlebury's McCullough Student Center hosted three prestigious comedians in a sparsely attended but successful night of laughs. The African American Alliance (AAA) Comedy Jam's three visiting comedians, who go by the names of Spank, Mike Bonner and Shang, touched on a wide variety of subjects from dorm life to politics. Their unique half-hour acts were filled with irony and wit, and all evoked lots of laughs from the audience.

The evening's opening artist, Spank, was a finalist on the Black Entertainment Television (BET) show "Last Comic Standing." Spank was also featured on BET's "Comic View." The theme of his one-man show involved making fun of many current pop-culture figures, as well as people in the audience and the college life scene. Alexis Zain '05, president of AAA, commented, "There was one guy who wasn't from Midd, who Spank picked on the whole time and finally at the end the guy smirked." Those who attended the event agreed that Spank was "hilarious."

The event also featured Bonner, who is a 14-year veteran of the stand-up scene, and has had a very impressive career. Bonner was one of 10 comedians selected in 1999 to appear at the HBO-sponsored U.S. "Comedy Arts Festival" in Aspen, Colo. He has appeared on Jamie Foxx Presents Laffapalooza on Showtime, as well as Russell Simmons' HBO "Def Comedy Jam All-Stars." For seven seasons he has appeared on BET's "Comic View," where he won his own Grandstand Comedy Special. In his act, Bonner ridiculed many aspects of dorm life, the college dating scene and his own family life. Ashley Gamell '08 said that Bonner "did a great job of engaging the audience with his thoughts on college life and his style was creatively amusing."

Ashley Fitzgerald

One of the comedians at the AAA Comedy Jam pointed out a non-Midd-kid about whom he cracked many jokes.

The last comedian of the night goes by the name of Shang. Like the comedians before him, Shang boasts an outstanding career in comedy. He chose to become a comedian one night when his friend dared him to compete in an open-mike night at a local comedy club. Shang won the competition, and he has not given up comedy since. He has been featured on HBO's "Def Comedy Jam," BET's "Comic View," NBC's "Comedy Showcase," Comedy Central's "Comedy Cabana" and many other programs. Shang has cemented his position as one of the brightest and most successful comedians out there today and recently released his first major CD entitled "Shangry!" which received rave reviews. Shang's reputable socio-political style of comedy was much appreciated by those who attended the Comedy Jam. Almost everyone agreed that Shang was the best performer of the night because of his witty political humor. Spank, Bonner and Shang lit up the McCullough social space in the Comedy Jam on Friday night with various types of humor. Though the turnout may not have been as good as in past years due to conflicting social events, the sound of laughter was never lacking and a bad review was not to be found. The members of AAA felt that the event was a big success, and to all those who missed it in order to crowd into Pearsons to watch the Dissipated Eight or in Hepburn to see "Vampire," the Comedy Jam will be back next year.

Risen from the ashes

Nirvana Bhatia

Packed into Pearsons Lounge on Friday night, Midd-kids gathered to listen to the Dissipated Eight perform all the songs featured on their new album, "Risen From The Ashes." The concert was a hit with fans and was followed by a party. The Lounge was filled to capacity, with students piled into the hallway to listen.

Eating Disorder event brings hope

Students share their experiences

By Lauren Armstrong
Staff Writer

On Friday, March 11 a group of students, faculty and community members gathered in the Gamut Room to promote awareness of and to celebrate hope for those with or recovering from eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia. The program, aptly entitled "Hope," included song and dance performances, personal reflections from those who have suffered from eating disorders and stories from friends who had helped them to overcome and heal from their experiences.

The program was sponsored by Feminist Action at Middlebury (FAM). Organized by President Lauren Curatolo '06 and members Trinity Gaddy '06 and Assia Elgouacem '06, the event dealt with many of the emotions surrounding eating disorders, from guilt, pain and loneliness to the hope and joy of recovery. The quote at the top of the event program encapsulated the gravity of the topic — "Anorexia and bulimia affect nearly 10 million women and one million men (primarily teens and young adults) in reported cases in the U.S. Eating disorders are real and can have life-threatening consequences (National Eating Disorders Association)."

The performances, however, captured the hopeful side of this very real problem. Priscilla Sinclair '07 performed an original dance piece entitled "Help Me Believe," that poignantly reflected the turmoil experienced by those suffering from eating disorders. Sinclair felt that the event was a great forum for people to share their experiences. She remarked, "I was extremely happy to perform that night. I think more people should be able to talk about things as important as this. It's more common than people think and the little comments we make do have a great impact on a person."

In a personal reflection entitled "Letting Go," Curatolo spoke about her struggle with bulimia following a trip to India that left her overwhelmed with guilt about the suffering that she witnessed there. "Eating disorders mirror the lack of control one has in a world that assumes control over people," she said. "For me, dealing with bulimia was more about dealing with how I thought the world wanted me to be, and more importantly, I manifested the pain that I felt living in a world that was so torn asunder by war and poverty, oppression and violence, especially against women and children. It was my source of control in a world that seemed uncontrollable," said Curatolo.

Although many of the performers reflected on the negative influence that other people and society in general can have on one's self esteem, there was also a great emphasis on the power of love and friendship to heal emotional wounds. Many shared how they had overcome their disorders with the support of friends and family, as well as professional help. After long internal struggles, many participants said they had come to the conclusion that the purpose of life is to live, rather than subject oneself to the serious health problems related to anorexia and bulimia.

The event not only aimed to raise awareness of eating disorders as real and prevalent problems but also gave an overwhelming message of hope for overcoming them. Curatolo felt that the event "was one of the greatest ones for FAM and was a testament to the fact that in the face of such huge epidemics, unity serves as the greatest force of change." The sincere and touching revelations of the performers, along with the support of friends and strangers alike in the audience, created a feeling of solidarity and compassion that echoed far beyond the walls of the Gamut Room.

As a continuation of the event, there will be a meeting held on Wednesday, April 6 in Pearsons' Lounge for those who are interested in learning about how to help a friend with an eating disorder.

May Chan

Brigitte Frett '06 reads aloud to fellow students gathered in Gifford's Gamut Room to discuss eating disorders.

World Briefs

Tsunami Theme Park

Making a tourist attraction out of the Tsunami events — such is Thailand's new governmental project, which entails creating a simulation out of the tremendous breaking wave in Phuket. Their objective is to "educate" the tourists who are visiting the island, in order "for them to be conscious of the way in which this kind of thing happens." The idea was not received unanimously. "I understand that they need to reconstruct their economy, but this type of project seems to me uncalled-for," confides Fiona Nott, an Australian who lost her sister in the catastrophe.

— *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Sydney

Chic and Shocking!

The electrified dog-coat, now here is a new doggy-fad for Finland. This gadget will soon be appearing in stores around Helsinki and sends a discharge of 100 Volts to the wolves whose bad idea it might be to indulge in the delicate flesh of a Chihuahua. Every year, between 20 and 30 Finnish dogs are killed by this predator. One precision must be made — the coat electrocutes the wolf, but it isolates the pooch.

Anorexia

Argentinians are known for their elegance. Behind the appealing aspect of the country's trendiest shopping complexes is hidden a more somber social trend — the obsession with aesthetics and its sinister consequences. Anorexia and bulimia have taken on disastrous proportions in Argentina, with the most elevated rates in the world after Japan and one out of 10 adolescents suffering from an eating disorder.

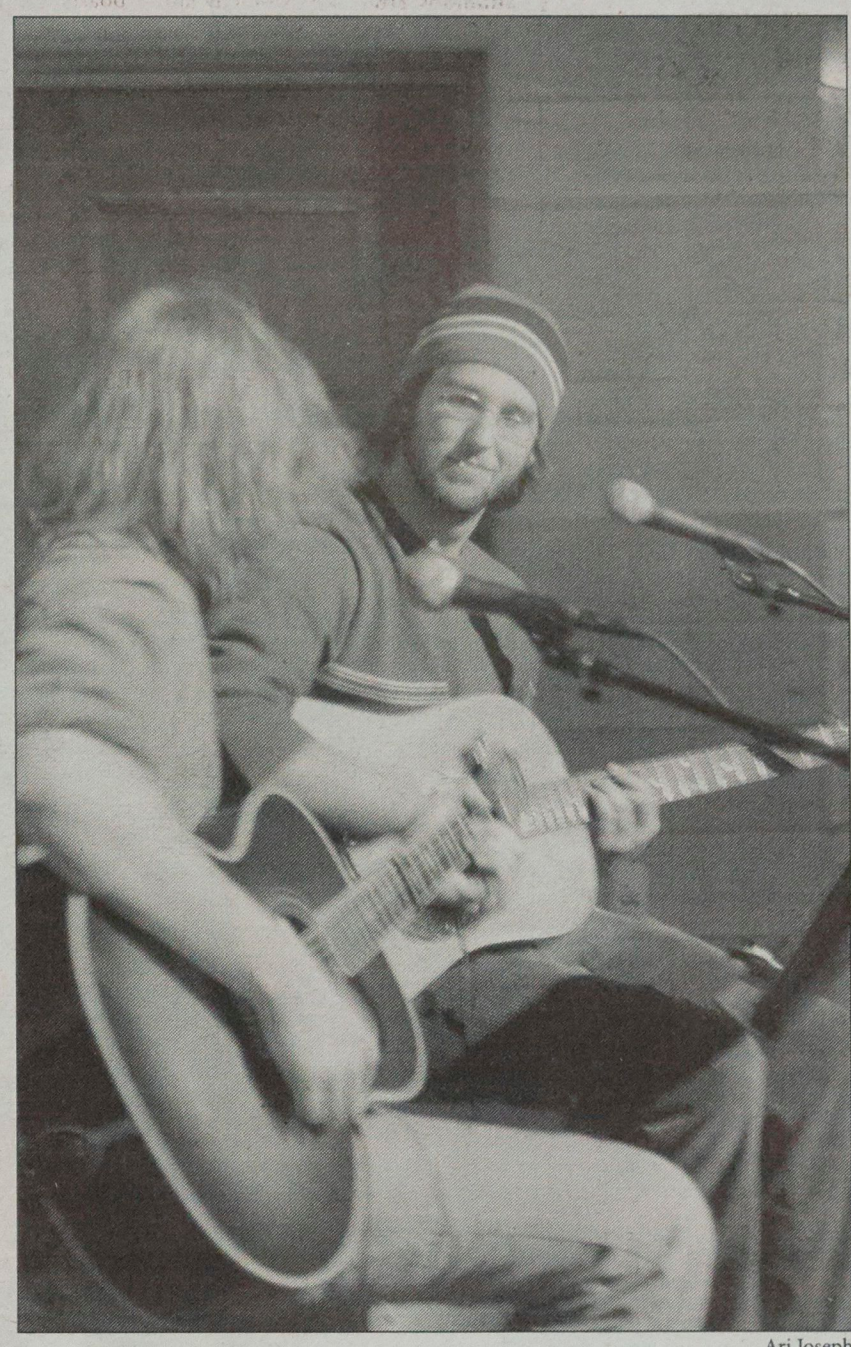
As a means to reduce the unwholesome influence of top models on the food behaviors of many young people, a bill was presented to the Parliament. Recently adopted by the Senate, the bill is now in deliberation at the lower Chamber and it plans to punish the manufacturers and retail dealers who do not offer clothing of all sizes to their customers. They will be fined between 100 and 10,000 pesos [between 25 and 2500 USD] and in the case of a second offense, they will be commercially suspended for up to five days.

"Top models are like a moving show-window. They convey an ideal of aesthetics to which society blindly conforms itself. Those who do not feel up to those standards can easily become sick with despair," explained Leopold Moreau who deplores the damaging effects caused by the fashion industry on society. Many clothing companies deny the need for larger clothing sizes, "the first ting to do," according to Diego Adamovsky "is to determine the actual clothing needs of the country."

As for the opinion on the streets, a young Argentine woman revealed, "I would be delighted for the law to pass. Most of the stores that I know only sell small sizes."

— *Buenos Aires Herald*, Buenos Aires

Grille's the place



Ari Joseph

Strumming their guitars, Will Mallett '07.5 and Tim Shepard '07.5 performed at the Grille on Thursday night.

campus in-depth

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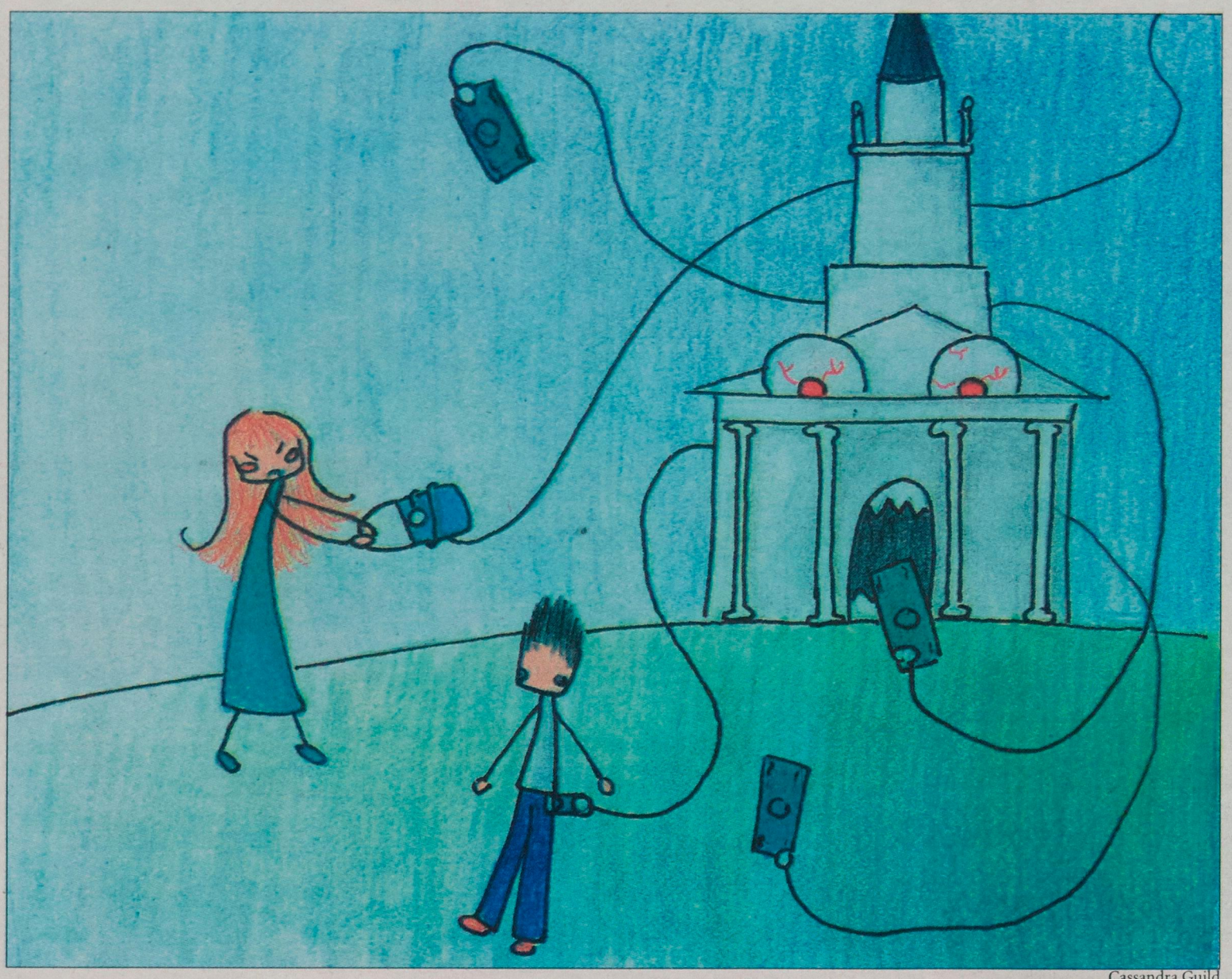


Cassandra Guild

Midd Sticker Price Soars Again

By Ben Salkowe
Special Projects Editor

Parents of Middlebury students will begin receiving letters from President Ronald D. Liebowitz today announcing a 2005-2006 comprehensive fee of $42,120 — a 4.25 percent increase from the current fee. An e-mail from the President's office will be sent to students in the next several days.

"This fee reflects a 4.25 percent increase, the lowest percentage increase in the past four years," wrote Liebowitz in the letter. "While the trustees are committed to keeping the increase as low as possible, they recognize that there are few shortcuts to ensuring an excellent faculty, to providing inspired teaching, to building and maintaining libraries and laboratories, or to remaining need-blind in our admissions process and meeting the full demonstrated financial aid for our admitted students."

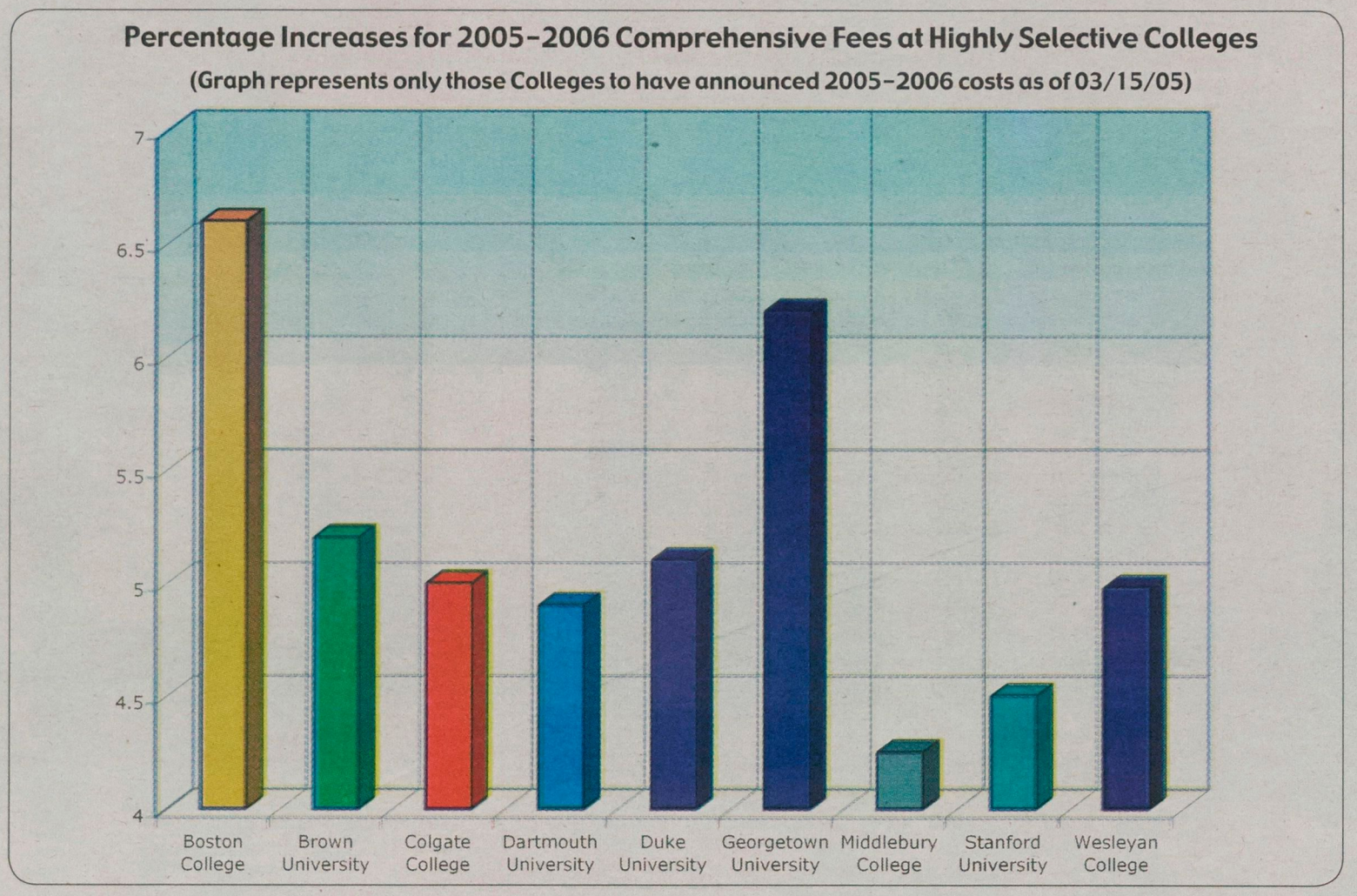
"This fee reflects a 4.25 percent increase, the lowest percentage increase in the past four years."

—President Liebowitz

The announcement came nearly a month later than has been tradition. In a departure from previous years, Old Chapel withheld its announcement after the Winter meeting of the Board of Trustees. Under President John McCardell, Jr. the decision last year was leaked from the February trustees meeting and quietly inserted in the monthly "MiddNews" put out by the Office of Public Affairs.

"I think it's the president's responsibility to convey to parents and students what the increase is," Liebowitz told *The Campus*. At the February Board meeting the Trustees approved a range for the 2005-2006 comprehensive fee and the president's staff agreed upon a final number last week.

In his letter to parents, Liebowitz noted that the increase was less than the 5.1 percent increase proposed by the Student Government Association's Comprehensive Fee Committee, and that the fee represented only part of the actual cost of a Middlebury education. "As many of you are aware," he wrote," revenue from the com-



prehensive fee covers just 60 percent of the cost of the Middlebury education; endowment income, grants, and gifts from alumni, parents and friends make up the remaining 40 percent."

Students wary of increases

Because the administration wanted parents to receive first word of the decision, *The Campus* was unable to discuss the decision with students prior to publishing. Most students, however, expressed ambivalence over an increase of any size after last year's landmark $40,400 fee.

"It's hard to understand why the fee has to rise every year," said Jessica Cox '07. "I think it would be very unfortunate if the fee were substantially increased again [this] year. It makes it very difficult for families who are paying the entire cost of school."

Cox noted that while financial aid helps some, there are families that do not qualify for grants but still struggle. "Financial aid isn't able to help everyone, as hard as they try," she said.

For students from high-income households, increased comprehensive fees are still affordable. For students from low-income households, financial aid awards adjust with tuition increases to cover their cost of attendance. Students caught in the middle, however, most feel the burden of comprehensive fee increases. Often these students receive limited financial aid or come from families with multiple children in college.

Sophomore Ben Davis suggested that more and more widely available financial aid at the College could make the actual comprehensive fee irrelevant.

"I have no problem with the Middlebury price tag. From what I understand our tuition fees don't even approach the [actual] cost of housing, feeding, entertaining and educating us," he said. "My problem is with the insufficient financial aid. In my case I think my aid is insufficient, but I understand that there are others with greater need."

Ironically, raising the 2005-2006 comprehensive fee will, in part, contribute to College efforts to improve financial aid offerings.

Davis said he thought that raising the fee to improve financial aid was a fair justification.

"If that additional cost can help provide better financial aid, why not raise it? If that additional fee goes to buy the hockey team new uniforms then it's a waste," he said.

The View from the Top

One consistent criticism of the College's current comprehensive fee is that it earns the College the unfortunate distinction of being the most expensive school of its peers (*see* GRAPH).

"The Administration needs to acknowledge that the higher Middlebury's tuition becomes, the more we distance ourselves from other competitive colleges who offer a similar education for a better price," said Jackie Hurwitz '07.

Eric Davis, Secretary of the College and Professor of Political Science, followed the decisions of Middlebury's peers this year while the final decision on the fee was being reached. "To date, the only other NESCAC college to announce its 2005-06 fee is Wesleyan, where the increase is 4.98 percent" said Professor Davis.

Other non-NESCAC schools have announced fee increases as high as 6.6 and 6.2 percent at Boston University and Georgetown University, respectively. "Middlebury's increase is the lowest that I have seen so far among highly selective colleges and universities," said Professor Davis.

"I'll be surprised if many other of our peer institutions have increases lower than 4.25 percent," said Liebowitz.

Nonetheless, given Middlebury's top rank last year as the most expensive NESCAC school, even a lower than usual increase may keep the College ahead of the pack in terms of an actual number. Administrators argue that the "price tag" does not influence the decisions of prospective students because financial aid adjusts the actual cost of attendance — students disagreed.

"My greatest concern with the high price is that Midd may be losing the interest of some students who would be great fits here based on that factor alone," said Hurwitz.

Because financial aid decisions are not known until after students apply, it is possible that some prospective students may never get beyond the initial "sticker shock" of the College's comprehensive fee, and actually apply.

"I feel like in America we prize education so highly and yet we make a good education attainable only for an inordinate price," said Cox. "A year of school for $40,000 is too much for many people to pay, even with help from financial aid. Trends towards higher fees for higher education are getting ridiculous."

"I think it would be unfortunate if the fee were substantially increased again [this] year."

—Jessica Cox '07

Future of the Fee

While students and parents were only just learning of the fee increase, administrators involved in the decision expressed satisfaction with the agreement reached, and seemed optimistic about future increases.

"I am very pleased that Middlebury's fee increase for next year is the lowest in four years, and will almost certainly be below that of just about all the institutions with which we compete in recruiting for students and faculty members," said Professor Davis.

Professor Davis noted that the College was able to increase the fee at a lower rate and still leave room for goals of improving faculty compensation and getting 40 percent of the student body "on grant aid."

"One of the reasons that we will be able to maintain these goals in 2005-06, in spite of a somewhat lower fee increase than comparable colleges, is that our endowment performance in 2003-04 was at the high end of the range of comparable institutions. Middlebury's endowment increased by over 22 percent in 2003-04," said Professor Davis.

Liebowitz said his administration was attentive to the significant increases of the fee, and that they would be a consideration as the College addressed goals and priorities in its already underway planning process.

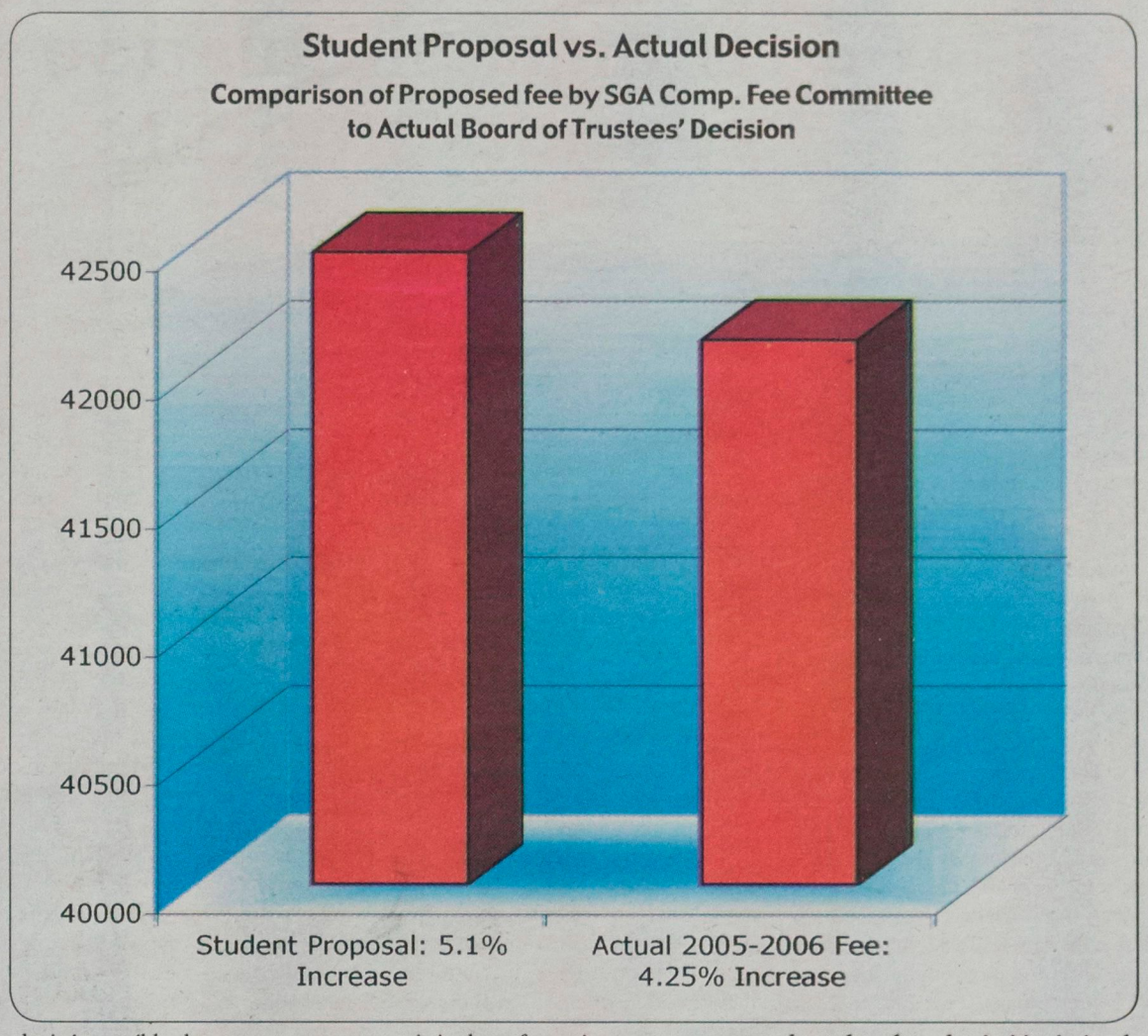
Because planning for the future will ultimately require additional resources, Liebowitz said a capital campaign would begin "sometime down the road," but not beginning next year.

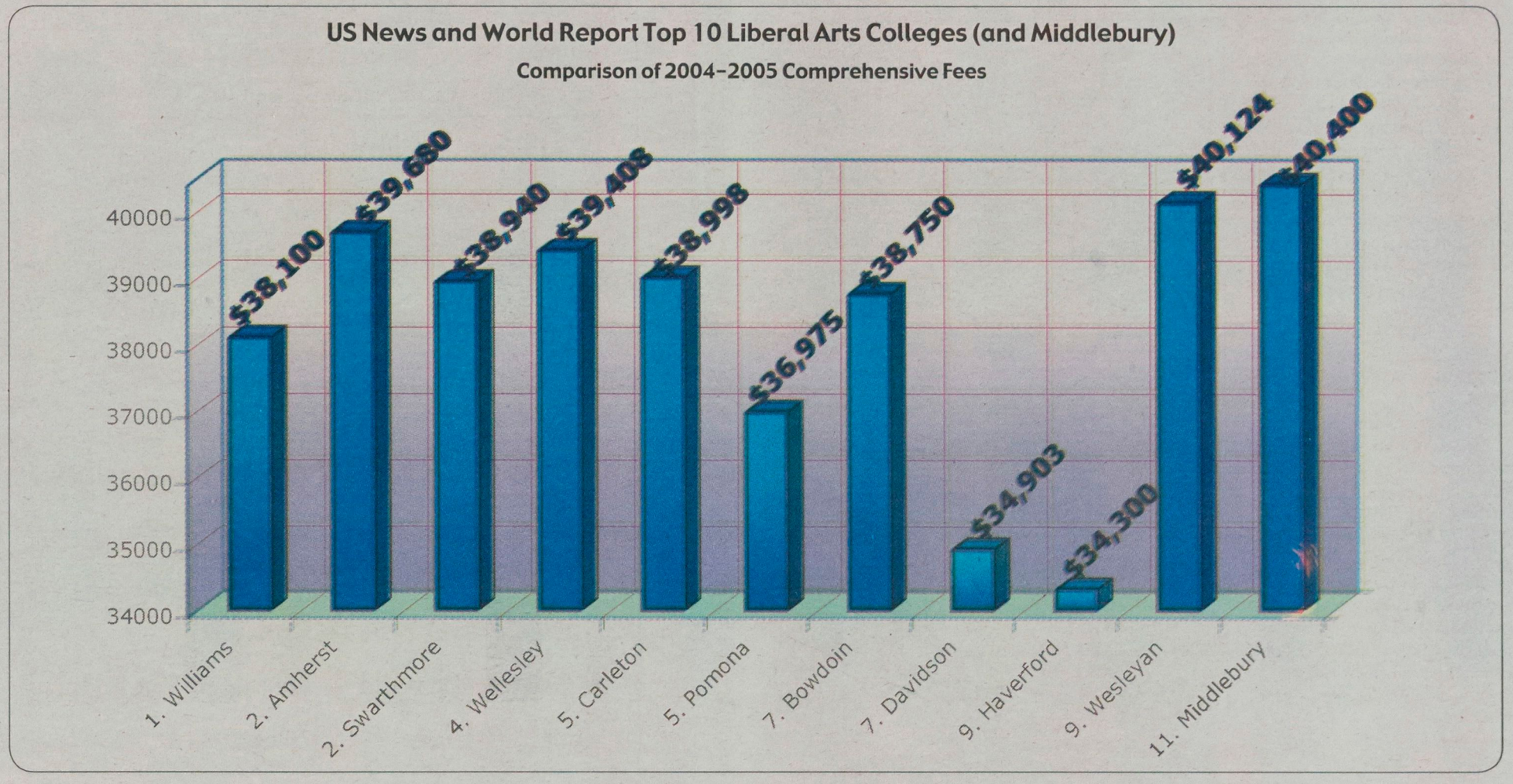
"We're very aware of the high cost of education. It would be wonderful if we had an endowment twice the size and perhaps had lower increases each year," he said.

Liebowitz said he hoped to keep future fee increases within one percent of inflation, but that such a goal would be difficult given factors such as salaries and benefits, health care costs in particular.

"It is difficult to do all we think is important with increases within a percentage point of inflation," he said.

Hurwitz said despite her criticisms of the fee, she could not say her experience at the College was not worth the price tag. "All in all, we get what we pay for," she said. "A beautiful campus, inspiring classes and a whole lot of pampering."





BY MATT KUNZWEILER

Every once in a while, I or someone I know asks the question, "Why do we do this to ourselves?" This question is usually posed over Sunday scrambled eggs and seasoned potato cubes — "hangover brunch." I might try to justify my previous evening's carnivalesque B.A.C. by saying something along the lines of, "But how could you ask me to control myself when André Champagne was on sale at such low-low clearance prices?" Or,
"When I heard the new Beck, Jay-Z and Pharrell Williams version of 'Frontin' on Debra,' autopilot just took over. I can't be held responsible."

This doesn't really answer the initial question, which I believe is an important one. Slews of students are downright celebratory about temporarily lobotomizing themselves on a regular basis. "Dude, I drank so much last night I acted like a feeble child!" Such a claim is met with the hearty response, "I know, it was bitchin'!"

Don't think I'm trying to take the moral high ground here — I'm as guilty as anyone. But can we look at the above example for just a second and acknowledge that something is wrong here? Alcohol is the acknowledged social lubricant, and when used properly, it might just produce the following equation — alcohol = friends. But the college tendency is to push the buzz to its most ridiculous extreme, a state characterized by slurred speach, fleeting consciousness, making out on the McCullough dance floor and violently shaking vending machines. Middlebury College students willingly let their autopilots take over, and many of these autopilots are scheming, amoral alter egos.

When I was young, my autopilot was a wild card. If I drank too much, I was handing the reins over to a maniacal hedonist. He'd get me home in one piece, but this was usually accomplished with some degree of heedless creativity.

One New Year's Eve, a cop approached a 16-year-old version of me, and with handcuffs drawn, offered to find me a place to rest. Realizing that he was talking about the drunk tank, my audacious autopilot commanded my body to sprint through three lanes of traffic and into the woods. I made it home safely that night, but it took me half an hour to clamber up my steep and icy driveway. My father, who has an interesting sense of humor, quietly witnessed this sad episode from the deck of our house. The next afternoon, while I was in-between dry heaves, he asked me to write an essay reflecting on my poor judgment.

"Dad, I think you need to take me to the hospital."

"I think you need to finish that essay."

"I'm begging you."

Despite the acrostic I slipped into my essay — the first letters of each line spelled out DAMN YOU BILL YOU THINK YOU'RE SO F***ING CLEVER — I think Bill won that one.

But I learned a valuable lesson by writing the essay. My depraved autopilot does not have my best interests in mind — he'll have fun with my body and then leave me catastrophically hung-over in front of a word processor — just where the bastard left me this morning.

Hunger Simulation educates students

By Caitlin Taylor
Staff Writer

Imagine your name is Jorge. You come from the highlands of Guatemala where, although the civil war has ended, violence is still occurring. Your home, along with many others, was burned when the military suspected that there were Communists living in your village. You left for the city where the living conditions were terrible. You slept in huts made of cardboard, old car doors or anything you could find until a few years ago when you and your neighbors received a small loan to start a tiny carpentry workshop.

Jorge was only one of the hundreds of "global personalities" featured at The Oxfam Hunger Banquet that took place at Ross Dining Hall on Friday, March 11. The Banquet was advertised as a fundraiser for the sustainable hunger relief organization Heifer International. The dinner banquet aimed to "simulate the imbalance in food distribution in the world" in order to increase awareness and understanding of the pervasive problem of worldwide hunger today.

After contributing a suggested donation to Heifer International, each student picked, at random, a "global personality," which determined the income level of the student's personality, thus indicating the student's portion for the night. If a student picked a low-income personality, he or she was to sit on the small space of floor in the front of the dining hall, which soon became crowded with the majority of the students. A student who picked a middle-income personality was allowed to sit in one of the chairs lined up behind the floor space. The wealthiest income group, high-income, were placed at table-clothed tables complete with silverware, glasses and napkins — luxuries that the lower income groups could not afford. The meals consisted of a small portion of rice for the low-income students, rice and beans for the middle-income students and a healthy meal of salmon and side dishes for the high-income students. The proportions of different global income groups in the simulation added up to 60 percent of low-income groups, 25 percent middle-income and 15 percent high-income, which were meant to be representative of the actual percentages in the world today.

This Hunger Banquet was the second to occur at Middlebury. The student leader of the banquet, Sarah Lauing '07, explained, "I was inspired by last year's banquet but also saw places to improve it. By changing the venue, inviting community members, and adding more local examples, I hoped to make the banquet more applicable to Middlebury students."

The Hunger Banquet seemed to be a success, but Lauing hopes that it is merely the first sign of a larger outpouring of support. She explained, "While turnout was not as large as I had hoped, the students seemed to react well to the content of the banquet, and I'm hoping the symposium will just be the beginning of a larger response by the College community to the issues of hunger and poverty."

Ari Joseph

At the Hunger Banquet, held in Ross Dining Hall on Friday evening, students were assigned to socio-economic groups to learn about world hunger.

Middlebury will continue to increase awareness of global poverty and hunger through more events and activities on and around campus. Further events include an April 8 Benefit Concert by the Bluegrass Gospel Project, whose proceeds will also go to Heifer International and a food drive in April. Lauing also organized a letter-signing campaign outside the dining halls in January to call attention to the issue of global hunger. The Hunger Banquet coincided with the week-long Poverty Symposium and the Community Summit on Poverty, organized by Sarah Johnson in the Alliance for Civic Engagement — a conference for the community members to discuss and gain awareness of both the poverty and hunger issue.

The hunger banquet raised about $590 for Heifer International, an organization renowned for its innovative approach to hunger relief — they purchase livestock and send it to needy communities around the world while also giving the communities the resources to use the animals to create a sustainable lifestyle and help other needy communities. The ultimate goal is to raise $5000 to purchase a "Noah's Ark" for Heifer International — a package that includes two of every animal — a move that would represent an enormous contribution to the organization.

WINNERS & LOSERS

What's hot and what's not on campus and in pop culture? *The Campus* gives its weekly report.

STONES	STICKS
Arrowheads of course	You can't honestly think that they'll break your bones
MINI-VANS WITH A STICK	PICK-UPS WITH AN AUTOMATIC
My kind of women	These cowboys ride side saddle
ST_CK	E
Try all the vowels and find all the meanings	Doesn't work

PANTHER TOP 10

What music makes the Middlebury Charts? Here are the weekly top Napster downloads on campus.

1. 50 Cent — Candy Shop
2. John Mayer — Daughters
3. Gwen Stefani — Rich Girl
4. Green Day — Boulevard of Broken Dreams
5. Maroon 5 — Sunday Morning
6. La India — I Just Want To Hang Around You
7. Cartel — All The Way
8. Black Eyed Peas — Pump It
9. Groove Armada — Hands of Time Here
10. The Killers — Mr. Brightside

Nikko — king of the treadmill

You've seen his crazy antics at the gym — now see what he has to say about them

Nikko Arger '07 is somewhat of a legend to gym-goers and it is high time that the rest of the Middlebury community get to know him. Nikko's known for his...umm...energized treadmill running. It is inspirational to see him whipping out intensely crazy dance moves while sprinting as fast as the machine will go. *The Middlebury Campus* caught up with Nikko to learn more about this famed Midd-kid.

The Middlebury Campus: So, let's hear about your famed gym behavior.

Nikko Arger: Well, I love running, plain and simple. When I am at at home in Nevada it is a different climate, especially in the summer, so I run outside as much as I can. Here in Middlebury, most of the year it is too cold, and when it is not too cold, it is too humid for me to run outside. So I run on the treadmill. I admit that the treadmill can get pretty boring, but the key for me is the music. I really get into what I am listening to — it makes the time go by so much quicker, it can get me very pumped up, and it's so much fun. The music keeps me going and at the same time, I keep going so I can listen to the music.

The Campus: Why do you dance around?

Arger: I guess I dance around because it helps pass the time and I get into my workout so much more. It helps get and keep my adrenaline and endorphins up and I love it. Plus, it's sort of a good way to burn those extra few calories, and of course, it is so much fun to just cut loose.

The Campus: What ever are you listening to on your iPod that gets you so pumped up? What is your favorite music to run to?

Arger: Well, first of all, I don't have an iPod, I have an MP3 CD player with all my running music on it. I usually run to the same stuff on my different distance days, but I do like to mix it up as well. I listen to everything from Britney Spears to Papa Roach to Beyonce to Pearl Jam. Whatever has a good beat and gets me excited. I think my workout faves are ATC's "Around the World," Britney Spears' "Crazy Remix," Papa Roach's "Getting Away with Murder" and of course Jennifer Saunders' "I Need a Hero."

The Campus: Do people stare? If they do, do you mind?

Arger: I guess people stare, my friends tell me all the time that they see me in the gym going crazy on the treadmill. My friend even did a film project on it, and I was really honored. I don't mind it at all, whatever someone wants to do to get their energy up is fine with me. I think most people are more focused on their own workouts anyway so they aren't distracted by what I am doing. Although, the TVs are right above me, so I guess they are looking in my direction anyway.

The Campus: How fast and how far do you run on that treadmill?

Arger: Well I usually run between 8.5 and 9.5 mph, so faster than a 7-minute mile. I start off slower and just gradually increase the speed. By the end I am up to 9.5 mph, or about a 6-minute mile. I have a very regular program. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday, I run 8 miles and on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, I run 5 miles and on Sunday I run 6. I know it is not good to run everyday, but I am sort of addicted to it, so I try to go everyday and I am pretty good about it.

The Campus: Are there other components to your work out routine? Were you an athlete in high school or anything?

Arger: I only run nowadays. I played football, lacrosse and ran track in high school and I used to lift weights as well as run, but at the end of my senior year I developed a bone cyst and since then I have had two wrist surgeries and currently have a type of bone cement in my wrist so I can't really lift anymore. I do miss the team sports I used to play, but I love running and am happy I am able to do that. My wrist is not so bad that I can't lift at all — I could do some low-weight, high-rep training, but I only have so much time I can be in the gym everyday, and when it comes down to it, I would rather spend that time running.

The Campus: Where do you live on campus? How do you feel about the hike to the gym?

Arger: I live in Gifford and I love it. The trek to the gym is not bad at all. It is nice to have the gym on another part of campus because it really is a break from studying and everything else — when you go there, all you really have to focus on is working out.

The Campus: What is your favorite thing to do on a Friday night at Midd?

Arger: My usual Friday evening starts after class when I go to the gym for my run. Then I eat dinner and go into town to the art studio at Frog Hollow and work on my clay sculpture stuff — it is a nice, relaxing escape and I really love doing clay hand-building. Then I go back to my dorm and visit with friends or watch a movie or read.

The Campus: What's your favorite dining hall meal?

Arger: Well, I eat at Ross, and my typical meal is a salad with lots of greens with olive oil and balsamic vinegar. I guess after a long run, you really just want to eat something healthy instead of something greasy or too hard to digest. That said, I love Chicken Parmesan (who doesn't?) and I really love when they have focaccia with pesto sauce.

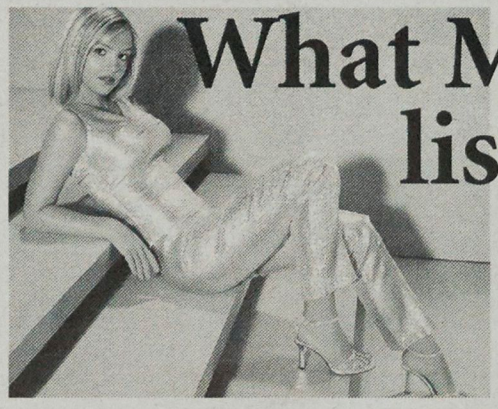
The Campus: What is your favorite TV show?

Arger: My favorite TV shows are "Sex and the City" and "Absolutely Fabulous" — they are incredibly witty and just entertaining to watch.

The Campus: What is your motto to live by?

Arger: We only get one body, so might as well take care of it. Also, try to get as much out of college as you can.

— Interview by Lisie Mehlman



What Midd-kids are listening to at the gym

— By Nura Suleiman

And I'm back. From Cairo, that is, thrust back into the bubble of Middlebury. It seems only logical to begin getting re-assimilated at the heart of Midd — the gym. I seem to have developed an extreme case of amnesia while in Cairo and have forgotten not only the frigid temperatures that permeate Middlebury, but also the sheer determination of the average Midd-kid. No matter what time of the day, the gym seems to be packed with kids. There's always that girl on the treadmill that seems like she's been running for hours. And upon further sly investigation, i.e. a stolen glance at her minutes, it becomes clear that she has, in fact, been running for an hour! My treadmill reads approximately four minutes and 22 seconds, and honestly, I've been on there for about four minutes too long. I'm bored out of my mind, my feet hurtand I'm starting to sweat like a squirrel wrapped in cellophane. What on earth could she be doing? By Jove, I've got it! She's listening to music. But what kind of music could motivate her to run for such a long time at such an ungodly speed? I use my investigative skills further and decipher that her iPod reads "Mmmbop." Hmm. Hanson. Classic. Taylor's long golden locks would motivate me, too. I gaze around the room and realize (my future as a sleuth has at this time become quite apparent) that everyone seems to be running with the same fervor of this running girl. So I begin my study with a simple question — what are Midd-kids listening to?

A certain football player, who made me swear to his anonymity, was finally cajoled into telling me that it was Britney that really made his heart pump. He was not alone in this sentiment as nearly 11 other gym goers were found listening to the likes of Brit. Next on the list was Ace of Base, with a resounding six listeners, where again we found their telling me contingent upon their anonymity. Strangely, country was next in line where interestingly enough the majority of listeners chose the elliptical as their mode of transportation. The following Middlebury Work Out Mix could not have been completed without the help of the many souls who contribute to the sheer heat that radiates in the room, the slightly pungent odor and the overall low-self esteem on this campus. Enjoy!

Middlebury Work Out Mix

1. Standing Outside the Fire — Garth Brooks
2. Church on Sunday — Green Day
3. Rock Your Body — Justin Timberlake
4. Southern Hospitality — Ludacris
5. Toxic — Britney Spears
6. Welcome to the Jungle — Guns and Roses
7. You're the Teacher — Eve 6
8. What Cha Gonna Do — Nappy Roots
9. Rocking the Suburbs — Ben Folds Five
10. Mmm Bop — Hanson
11. Represent — Ja Rule
12. Tubthumping — Chumbawamba
13. The Way You Move — Outkast
14. Call on Me — Eric Pryde

arts

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BEATS, BOUNCE AND BATTLES
YUICHIRO DISCUSSES THE INTRICACIES OF BREAKDANCING

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HEADLINE
SHORT STORY DESCRIPTION GOES HERE

Wyclef set to spice up the spring

MCAB announces Wyclef as Midd's spring concert artist

In addition to his musical career, Wyclef Jean also focuses his energy on social causes such as his organization, Yele Haiti, founded to help Haitain children.

By Hans Manzke
Staff Writer

Wyclef Jean is an almost incomprehensible conglomeration of pop-culture sponge, businessman, superstar producer, actor and faithful representative of his native Haiti. The man owns 48 cars, is worth many millions of dollars and produces tracks for some of hip-hop's biggest stars. He's slated to play Curtis Mayfield on NBC's nostalgic melodrama "American Dreams." Jean is simultaneously a representative of an overly materialistic American culture and a far more spare, non-Western Haitian world.

Then there's the side of Jean that very few know, the side he displays prominently on his 1997 album "The Carnival" and 2003's full-length "Preacher's Son" — that of his never-abandoned Haitian roots. Singing in the country's native Creole, Wyclef splashes a colorful picture of Haiti with recognizable and regretfully-ubiquitous American reference points. The song "Carnival," from the album of the same name, includes the lyrical equivalent of a wrench shoved into an well-oiled machine. "Kentucky Fried Chicken," "six-piece nugget" and "Burger King" purposefully interrupt the track's fluid, musical Creole. As an artist, Jean is far more than his radio releases.

Jean's music is informed by his own life. Born in Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti in 1972, his family moved to the Marlborough housing projects in Brooklyn, N.Y. when Jean was 9-years-old, and the to New Jersey when he was 15-years-old. His boyhood interest in jazz, hip-hop, soul, guitar, reggae and just about whatever he could lay his hands on, are present in his music-making as an adult. His full-length albums sprawl to encompass a dizzying variety of influences, which some listeners will inevitably see as a fault. Given his ability to execute so many different musical styles so well, one can only wonder what he'd do if he applied himself wholly to, say, hip-hop or dancehall reggae. All of that aside, it's refreshing to see an artist who refuses to limit himself in today's ultra-specialized and fractured music industry.

For those of you that still aren't sure about seeing Jean this April, consider his social and political views. Unlike so many of the socialite, pointlessly glamorous music stars of our day, Jean is actively involved in a number of social and political endeavors, especially his own effort Yele Haiti. Sean founded Yele Haiti to help Haitian children, whose country is one of the most impoverished in the Western Hemisphere. The first tier of relief will take the form of 134 full scholarships to the Haitian Sports Academy, a place where children can get healthy meals, an education and exercise. The second tier of aid mirrors Jean's own artistic ambition — he has dedicated funds to rebuild 20 schools and provide 3,600 scholarships in the Haitian city of Gonaives. Racked by omnipresent poverty and violence between the supporters of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, police forces and organized gangs, Port au Prince and other Haitian population centers are in desperate need of foreign aid. With Yele Haiti, Jean hopes to be his country's savior, starting with the children.

Jean will bring all of this to Middlebury on April 22 at the annual spring concert. This concert event marks one of the first times the Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) and WRMC have collaborated seriously for the spring concert. While MCAB ended up choosing a different artist than those who WRMC wanted, MCAB President Merideth Kernan '05 said, "I think that just having a good discussion about music on campus with leaders of both groups present was a great thing to do. Hopefully in the future more ties will be established, and a co-sponsored concert could happen, which is something I feel the campus would really benefit from." MCAB worked overtime to get an artist like Jean to come to the "Middle of Nowhere," Vt., and MCAB concert chair, J. Brito '06, was integral in organizing the effort to bring Wyclef to Middlebury.

It should be interesting to see what Jean chooses for his set list given that his artistic range is astounding. From his pure hip-hop days of Fugees lore to the Creole excellence of his later work, he will no doubt put on a show well worth seeing. If you're on the fence, download the aforementioned "Carnival" and see just how good Creole can sound. Let it grow on you, and you'll realize that apart from being the perfect song for various Spring Break vacations, it summarizes Jean's experiences as a Haitian-American. In a world of domineering pop-culture and a monolithic music industry, Jean has discovered how to juggle and balance all of the passions and influences he has experienced throughout his life without compromising any of them. No small feat, by any stretch of the imagination.

Scottish virtuoso

Zilai Gan

Delighting audiences with a two-hour solo concierto, acclaimed Scottish Pianist Steven Osborne came to Middlebury to perform at the Center for the Arts last Saturday. Osborne is famous for his mastery of classical compositions by Mozart and Beethoven as well as works by Messiaen and Tippett.

Spotlight on: Yuichiro Mitsutomi

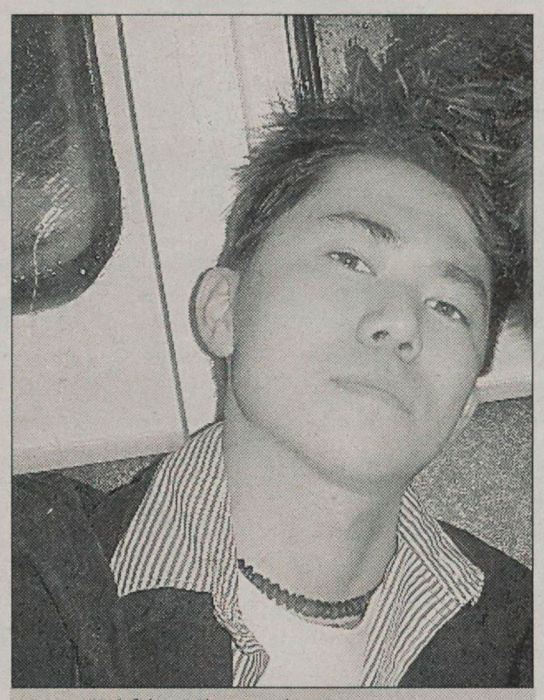
President of GT Breakers speaks about his favorite form of artistic expression

The Middlebury Campus: How did you become interested in breakdancing?

Yuichiro Mitsutomi: I started breakdancing freshman fall after watching Morgan Alexander Jones (aka Mojo, who graduated last year) breakdancing at a party. I didn't have any prior experience with dance or gymnastics or anything, so I basically started dancing when I got to Middlebury.

The Campus: Tell us about the breakdancing club, The GT Breakers, at Middlebury.

Mitsutomi: In my opinion, GT is probably one of the most diverse and dramatic clubs on campus. It started out small, but the small community allows us to be more like a family. We're really close. We hang out together and there can be so much drama within the group. We love each other, we hate each other — there's always this dynamic struggle. But right now, GT is pretty much all about love.



Name: Yuichiro Mitsutomi
Year: Sophmore
Hometown: Shonan, Japan
Major: Joint Chinese and History
Favorite dining hall: I don't really like dining halls
Favorite food: 89 cent half lb. beef combo burrito

The Campus: What is your role in the organization?

Mitsutomi: I started out last spring as the public relations officer for GT, and this spring I became president. One of the things I want to do for this crew is to create an atmosphere where people can develop their love for breaking and hip hop.

The Campus: What do you struggle with the most in terms of breakdancing?

Mitsutomi: I think some of the hardest things has to do with my personal limitations. There are times when you feel like your power and style seems stagnant, like you aren't getting anywhere. That's what I struggle with the most.

The Campus: Has breakdancing helped you in other aspects of your life?

Mitsutomi: Definitely. Breakdancing has given me confidence and an identity — things that go beyond borders. I grew up in a lot of different cultures, so I had trouble identifying with one specific nationality or ethnicity. But after finding breakdancing, I developed a sense of identity, because you don't have to be a specific nationality to break dance. It's global.

The Campus: What is special to you about breakdancing?

Mitsutomi: One thing about breakdancing is that it's essential to create your own style. You can learn moves from someone, but you can never take their style — that's a taboo. Also, there's a distinct vibe or style that each nationality holds. Like the Japanese style is different in the footwork, toprock and also in the movement and flow. There is more precision involved in the Japanese style than, say, the American East coast style, which has more bounce. East coast breaking reflects the streets more, it's more aggressive, less laid-back.

The Campus: What are your goals in breakdancing?

Mitsutomi: My definite goal is to develop a personal style that I can be confident in. I also want to become a power-styler, which means being comfortable with threading together style and power moves into one whole style set and making it look smooth. I want to be somebody who can represent the GT crew in and outside of Middlebury.

The Campus: Where have you performed at Middlebury and outside of school?

Mitsutomi: At Middlebury, we've performed in a variety of places, such as the McCullough stage, outside on the grass for Relay for Life, Proctor terrace and Mead Chapel. There's a whole list of places. Basically anywhere there's open space. Outside school, we've performed in talent shows at Mt. Abe High School in Vermont and at the subway stations and malls in Montreal. We've also had street shows in Burlington on Church St. and gone down to MIT to perform in their shows.

The Campus: Do you do other kinds of dancing? What about other forms of artistic expression?

Mitsutomi: Other kinds of dance? No, but I'd like to, so that I can incorporate them with my own personal style of breaking. I've been doing graffiti since middle school down in train stations in Japan, near the beach, basically wherever there's a surface. I also paint oil and acrylic. Surrealism is my main thing, big influences from surrealists like Dali.

The Campus: How often do you practice?

Mitsutomi: Every day, whenever I have time, from popping, locking in my room to practicing in CFA and McCullough, really just all the time.

The Campus: What's your favorite breakdancing move?

Mitsutomi: Right now, I love head spins. I'm still working on them, but I love them.

The Campus: Have you ever been in a "dance-off?"

Mitsutomi: Yes, I have, but to clarify, in breakdancing they're called "battles." I was basically dusted by the second-place breakdancing B-girl in Japan at the train station. She's part of the crew I'm in back in Japan, and it was sort of an initiation. It was a good experience, really motivating. It proved to me that breakdancing has no limits physically. It has nothing to do with being male, female or being a certain ethnicity — the kind of stuff that might be present in other forms of competition.

The Campus: Anything else you'd like people to know about breaking?

Mitsutomi: I think it's easy to be ignorant of the effort that guys and girls put into this form of expression everyday. Breakdancing is one of the most vibrant and aggressive forms of dancing there is. People get injured, and Middlebury has the responsibility to take notice of these things that are happening on campus. We go off to places like MIT, Tufts, Harvard and Montreal to make sure that Middlebury is represented in those various intercollegiate scenes.

— Lauren Smith and Jodie Zhang

Memebers of GT VT Breakers execute their smooth moves in a subway station. On March 26, five members of the Crew will compete in Boston in an intercollegiate breakdancing competition at MIT. Then on April 1, GT will battle at Tufts.

Courtesy

BLOWIN' INDIE WIND

BY RICHARD LAWLESS

THE ARTIST | IRON & WINE
THE ALBUM | WOMAN KING EP
RELEASE DATE | FEBURARY 22, 2005

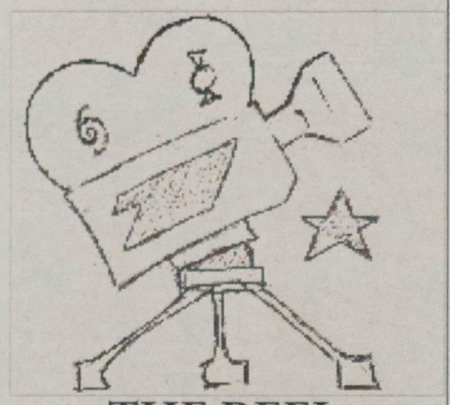
There comes a time in every lo-fi indie rocker's career when they decide it's time to get rid of the tape hiss and actually record an album with normal production standards. Lo-fi originators Pavement gradually cleaned up their sound over the course of their career, eventually recording their swan song with Radiohead producer Nigel Godrich. The result was something much different from — and not nearly as charming as — the endearing fuzz of their masterful debut "Slanted & Enchanted." Guided By Voices, once the epitome of poorly recorded pop gems, cleaned up their sound considerably by the time of their own swan song, last year's anticlimactic "Half Smiles of the Decomposed." And it's merely a matter of time before Microphones maven Phil Elvrum/Elvrim (he changes the spelling of his name on a whim) collaborates with the Neptunes or Kanye West for some music that's glossier than the hood of your Camaro the time you actually took it to Maaco. Well, at least I did.

Enter Sam Beam, aka Iron & Wine, who has done exactly what I described above (not the Maaco thing). From his 2002 debut "The Creek Drank the Cradle" to his recently-released "Woman King" EP, Beam has quickly moved towards a much richer, crisper sound with the aid of more cash and hence studio equipment. But unlike his lo-fi forefathers, Beam's sound only benefits from his improved production. While Pavement and Guided By Voices lost a significant amount of their charm and appeal by trading in their four tracks for 24-track (or more) studios, Beam's music begs to be sharpened and glossed, because it's much more delicate than other lo-fi artists' music. In fact, the only thing Iron & Wine had in common with lo-fi peers was the poor production. Sam Beam doesn't play abrasive, whimsical, pop music, as most lo-fi artists do. He plays hushed, pastoral folk, and the improved production on his 2004 album "Our Endless Numbered Days" and also on "Woman King" have allowed his music to shine. No longer can we classify Iron & Wine as lo-fi music.

You probably first heard Iron & Wine covering the Postal Service's "Such Great Heights" on the "Garden State" soundtrack, because every college student now owns that, as well as that annoying poster of affable young actor/director Zach Braff on a motorcycle with Natalie Portman in the sidecar. Beam's cover is good, but his own music is better. "Woman King" opens with an engaging clapping of drum sticks and muted acoustic guitars beckoning listeners into Beam's little world. A slide guitar begins playing the song's captivating melody, with Beam's gorgeous voice coming in seconds later, offering his usual woodsy musings: "Blackbird claw, raven wing / Under the red sun, hide / Long clothesline, two shirtsleeves / Waving as we go by." Beam's lyrics are usually vague and cryptic, but they fit both his enigmatic persona and the hazy, smoky feels of his music perfectly. Beam's world seems firmly planted in the lazy summer heat of the South, and he certainly looks the part of a mysterious folksman, taking a page from the Will Oldham school of having a really giant beard. He began his career releasing tapes from his Miami home while teaching cinematography at a local college, maintaining a mysterious distance from record labels in his correspondences.

There's a definite old-timey folk influence in Beam's music on "Woman King." Bygone blue-collar folk singers like Dock Boggs come to mind when one listens to the beguiling rhythms and banjos on "Freedom Hangs Like Heaven." The more detailed, crisper production allows Beam to add more instruments to the mix this time around. Percussion is used much more frequently here, though it usually takes the form of chimes, sticks and the occasional tom drum, all of which further enhances my image of Beam having a jamboree with little woodland creatures somewhere in rural Georgia.

Usually I condemn the purchasing of EPs, because they're so short yet still expensive, but hey, this is just a few minutes shy of a Weezer album, and the music is excellent, so I'm stamping my seal of approval on "Woman King."



THE REEL CRITIC

BY STEPHANIE DOSCH

MOVIE | MARIA FULL OF GRACE
DIRECTOR | JOSHUA MARSTON
STARRING | CATALINA SANDINO MORANO

Imagine you're a 17-year-old girl and you spend your days on a rose plantation dethorning flowers. Imagine this job pays almost nothing, and the conditions are terrible. You are surrounded by harsh chemicals, fed almost nothing and barely allowed to use the bathroom.

This is the life of Maria Alvarez (Catalina Sandino Moreno) in "Maria Full of Grace." She becomes fed up with her job and so she quits. At the same time she realizes she's pregnant, but she and her boyfriend argue and break up. With her mother, sister and her sister's baby to support, Maria decides to look for work in Bogotá. An acquaintance, Franklin, agrees to take her, and on the way he tells her that if she's looking for work, she can always be a drug mule.

Frightened but intrigued and desperate for the money, Maria agrees to let Franklin take her to meet the drug lord, who explains the job to her. He tells her that once she decides to take on the task there is no going back, but she agrees anyway. She also meets another mule named Lucy, who has smuggled drugs twice before. Maria asks what the job is like and Lucy advises, "You just have to be prepared and know how to do it right." She takes Maria under her wing, explaining how it works and helping her prepare. She makes Maria practice swallowing large grapes whole so she will be able to swallow the 60-70 pellets of heroin the drug lords will require. Lucy reminds Maria to be sure the pellets are well-wrapped, because if just one opens inside her, she will die. Then she tells Maria about her sister who lives in New York City, and how she hasn't had the nerve to visit her when she's been on her trafficking trips. "What is America like?" Maria asks. Lucy sighs and answers: "Over there … it's, like, too perfect. Everything's straight."

America turns out not to be as rosy as Lucy makes out, and from here on the movie is nerve-wracking. I found myself nervously clicking my pen as I watched Maria swallow 62 heroin pellets, then get on the plane bound for New York. Lucy is on the plane too, as well as Maria's friend Blanca, who Maria tried to convince not to become a mule. Be prepared to catch yourself biting your nails while the women are on the plane, passing through customs, and at the hotel afterwards. I don't want to say too much more about what happens in America — I don't want to spoil any surprises.

Catalina Sandino Moreno is excellent in her debut role as Maria. She *is* Maria — strong and fearful and confused and loving. She makes us understand that people have their own reasons for becoming mules, that they are not all just "bad people." She brings Maria to life and fills her with beauty, spirit and grace.

"Maria Full of Grace" is available on DVD and a great pick if you're bored at home over Spring Break.

'Vampire' play slays audience

By Josh Axelrod
Staff Writer

"The stage," writes Richard Romagnoli in his Director's notes to this past weekend's Zoo production of Snoo Wilson's "Vampire," "becomes a literal playground of ideas and theatrical styles, full of possibilities with the only limitation being our imaginations."

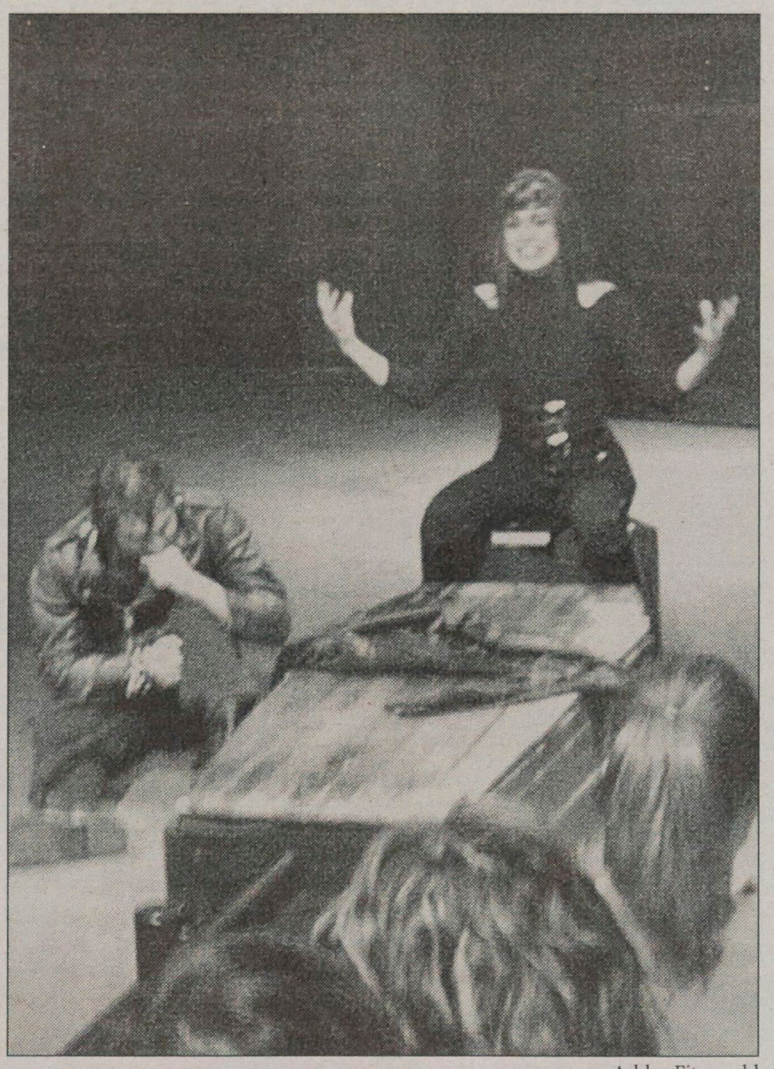
Taking this complicated aim as it goal, the play follows members from a single family through three generations beginning in 1860 and ending up in 1970, when it was written. At the play's opening, the sisters Jessie (Julia Proctor '05), Joy (Lily Balsen '06) and Ruth (Meghan Nesmith '06) find themselves confronted with the protective religious ideals of their parson father, Davis (Salim Saglam '07) and the moral degradation of the outside world that has come to them through the construction of the British railway system.

From this standpoint, the plot of the play unfolds dramatically and violently. Joy has an affair with Ruth's fiancé Reuben (Peter Abrikian '05), Ruth commits suicide while Reuben attempts to, but only succeeds in blinding himself. Joy and Reuben become lovers and the play moves them to a brothel-like séance where Joy is raped by her father while she is lying in a coffin, trying to communicate with the spirits of the dead.

Despite these dark images, as audience members like Caitlin Dennis '06.5 pointed out, "The energy on stage and the actor's ability to be totally submerged in the life of the play, especially at the end of Act One, was obvious through the uproarious laughter — even amid gunshots and multiple murders." Indeed, as Charles Dickens appears out of the blue, reading a page from "The Olde Curiosity Shoppe," and subsequently bursts into tears, how can anyone resist from laughing in absolute wonder?

But as all this is happening, as Dickens and Freud and Jung appear within the structure of the play, what happens is exactly what Romagnoli suggests — the stage is no longer a contained space, it is boundless, an area for the expansion of argument and ideas. Plot, if there ever was a plot, has been thrown aside, and Balsen's character has become as much of a historical figure as she has the main character. For, as the scene shifts to 1914, it becomes apparent that she is the voice of those who wish to rebel against societal convention and repression.

Thus, the play is able to finally achieve its "modern" view where, as Nesmith explains, the world "is absent of morality and is essentially a vacuum of emotion and connection." And, if one were to look closely at the play's final speech where people are warned of a certain "alien presence" in British society being an imminent threat, the parallel to the play's opening situation become apparent in the form of Davis' attempts to blind his daughters with religious zeal which only ends up destroying and depraving his family.



Ashley Fitzgerald

Lily Balsen '06 and Peter Abrikian '05 try to communicate with the spirits of the dead in last weekend's production of "Vampire."

And through this web of complex commentary and emotion and violence, praises John Stokvis '05, "Lily Balsen was very strong in the lead, commanding the space, portraying each of her three characters powerfully and movingly." Indeed, as Stokvis and Dennis both point out, though the audience may have been confused by the play's aims at times, the strength of the acting and the constant presence of humor made for an enjoyable evening. As Dennis said, "The audience ate up every second of ridiculousness."

Watch This Space

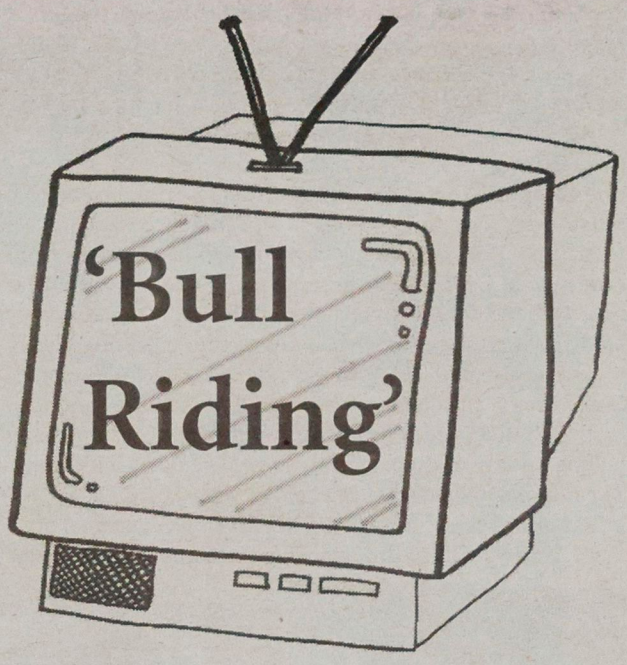
— BY SHEILA SELES

There is a sport on television that combines men in cowboy hats, arenas of screaming fans, the possibility for serious injury and the best athletes I've ever seen. Those athletes have names like Little Yellow Jacket, Crossfire Hurricane and Red Wolf. The sport is bull riding. The "PBR Built Ford Tough Series" airs on the Outdoor Life Network on Saturdays and Sundays at 9 p.m. Check listings for reruns and bull riding specials including the "PBR Total Bull" series, which features a behind-the-scenes look at this badass sport.

For those readers who haven't experienced the thrill of bull riding, the sport consists of men riding bucking bulls. The rules of bull riding are somewhat complex. I watch the sport religiously but needed to check out PBRnow.com to learn the actual rules. The "PBR Built Ford Tough Series," consists of 28 regular season events with a championship event in Las Vegas. The rider with the highest score at each event wins a considerable amount of money. The judges compute the scores by rating how difficult the bull is to ride and by rating the rider's ability to move with the bull. The rider has to stay on the bull for eight seconds, holding on to a rope with one hand only. If the rider touches himself or the bull during the eight-second ride, he is disqualified. Riders are usually bucked off the bull before they make it to the eight-second mark.

Bull riding, however, is not a great sport because of the riders. It's all about the bulls. In my mind, the bulls always win. Even if the rider has a "great" ride and holds on for eight seconds, he is still bucked off the bull after a few more seconds.There's no reason to worry about the safety of the bulls either. Bull riding is far more dangerous for the riders than it is for the bulls. The bulls are treated royally with a care usually reserved for show dogs and racehorses. Abusing a bull is about the worst thing that could happen in bull riding.

For the most part, the fans and announcers seem to root for the riders, but certain bulls are so charismatic that they draw the loudest applause at the events. My personal favorite bull is named Blueberry Wine. He's very little for a bull (only 1,100 lbs!) and he's white with patches of blue and brown spots. What Blueberry Wine lacks in size he makes up for in pure athleticism. Blueberry Wine bucks with the grace of a classically trained ballerina. He seems to be performing some intricate bull choreography when he's let out of the holding area. He raises his back legs rhythmically and achieves a bucking height that rivals many of the bulls twice his size. Blueberry Wine is literally beautiful to watch. He is one of the most popular bulls on the circuit — so popular, in fact, that the announcers openly root for him even though they're supposed to be evaluating the skill of the riders.



There are a handful of bulls that have achieved a celebrity status like Blueberry Wine. Little Yellow Jacket, who was voted the most difficult bull to ride last year, is worth over $100,000. PBRnow.com sells plush toy and Christmas ornament representations of the star bulls. (Sounds like a good present for a TV columnist whose birthday is coming up…) There are also segments (like in the Olympics) that give the bull's biography and show his best bucks.

Of course, without bull riders, bull riding could not exist. I admire the chutzpah of these young cowboys who willingly put their lives in danger to ride bulls, but I find the whole concept eerily fascinating. The bulls are 2,000 lb worth of muscle with a genetic desire to throw riders through the air and sometimes kick or run over them. I wonder who thought it would be a good idea to ride a bull. It's an idea that would have never crossed my mind, but I'm glad that someone thought of it because it's so entertaining. Then again, I can tell I'm not the targeted bull riding audience since all the commercials during the tournament are for things like John Deere tractors and motorboats. Regardless, it's an engaging and fast-paced sport that never fails to entertain.

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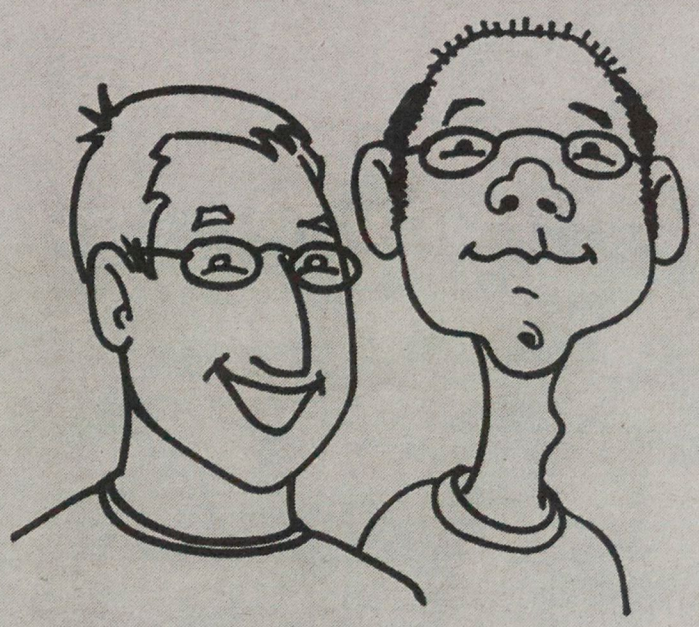

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Rackets heat up in preparation for L.A. meets

By Eri Nosaka
Staff Writer

The Middlebury Men's tennis team started their season with a three consecutive wins. On March 12, the defending national champions boasted victories over University of Rochester, Hamilton College and Brandeis University, dropping only one match the entire weekend.

Due to the tennis team's past successes, the wins from this weekend came as no surprise. Although the tennis team might be accustomed to playing better tennis, it appears that everybody played well. Some of the notable players from this weekend were Co-Captain Ari Beilin '06 and George Mayer '07.

Although the opponents from this past weekend were not as competitive as other teams on the west coast or in the NESCAC league, the Panthers continue to attempt to hone their talents and create a cohesive successful team.

"The team chemistry is pretty good this year. It's been a bit of an adjustment losing Steve Hulce '04 and Stu Brown '04 because they were such great leaders, but I think that everyone is stepping up in different ways to try to fill those voids," said Nate Edmunds '06. "I think that last year we were the best team in the country in that we played as a team. If that happens again this year, I think we have a good shot of coming out on top."

During Spring Break, the team will head to California for practice and competition against California teams. They will face Cal.-Lutheran, Vanguard, Chapman, Occidental, UC Santa Cruz and Claremont.

"We are still a little bit rusty and starting from next week we have a pretty tough schedule of matches and so therefore we need to play a little bit better. The teams we will be playing out in California should be pretty tough so this week we really need to practice harder and get our intensity up," commented Panther Co-Captain Alex Meditz '05.

"We should have a couple of easier matches earlier in the week but will be challenged by later matches," continued Meditz. "We hope to get our rankings up a little bit. UC Santa Cruz and Claremont are always good teams. They use different type of courts so they'll have a home court advantage so we won't be too used to it. But hopefully we will come out with some good wins."

The Panthers first match during Spring Break will be against Cal Lutheran on March 21.

Sixiao Huo

Junior Nate Edmonds slaps a backhand over the net in weekend action. Middlebury dominated the tournament.

Rusten '05 and Hughes '08 lead Midd skiers

Continued from page 24

vada, Reno to take the slalom victory by a mere four one hundredths of a second. Salo finished second, with a time of 1:25.43, while Florence Roujas of Denver took third, over a second back. Hughes' win marked the first NCAA victory for any Panther skier since Brooke Laundon won the slalom title in 1998.

"I was upset about not finishing the giant slalom, so I was going for the win in the slalom," said Hughes. "I knew how upset I would be if I finished the race feeling like I could have given it more, so I went for it all in the second run."

"I was really pleased and psyched to see her ability to mentally prepare for a national championship, especially after having some bad luck in the giant slalom on Wednesday where she knows she could have been top three," commented Head Alpine Coach Forest Carey. "It was a great way for her to cap off an awesome first year."

Smith, who placed fourth in the NCAA slalom a year ago, slipped a few spots in the second run to finish 19th after taking a gate in the face, while, Martin — who was thought to be destined for a top five result — finished a disappointing 30th.

On the men's side, Rusten concluded his ski-racing career in style, turning in one of his best performances in four years at Middlebury by taking second in the slalom. Evan Weiss and David Chodounsky of Dartmouth led Rusten by a 10th of a second after the first run, but Chodounsky's second run proved insurmountable as the Big Green first-year added to his lead to take the victory in 1:18.12, over a second ahead of Rusten. Giant slalom champ Greg Hardy of UVM rounded out the podium, just 14 hundredths behind Rusten.

"My success in the slalom is a reflection of how good a coach Forest is," acknowledged Rusten. "We studied a lot of video together and came to the conclusion that I was hunching over too much and rotating my upper body at the top of the turn. We also made some other equipment adjustments and have been continually fine-tuning my technique all year."

"The snow was absolutely bulletproof which is where I'm at my best," continued Rusten. "My first run ended up better than I had expected and my second run was solid, maybe too solid, but I was relieved when I made it through the finish. It was the last race of my career, I wanted to make the most of it."

"I am so psyched for Johnny," exclaimed Carey. "He's been an integral part of the Middlebury ski program for the last four years and he's enjoyed one of the best collegiate ski-racing careers of anyone in the last decade. We're certainly going to miss him."

"This week showed just how competitive Megan and John are," continued Carey. "They're great game day competitors that know what it takes to get the job done."

On the nordic side, the east was no match for the west as the advantage of training at altitude was clearly a factor. While UVM won the overall alpine classification, Denver's dominance in the men's cross-country events gave them the edge they needed to win the overall. In Thursday's 10 km classic, Denver went 1-2-4, while the best eastern skier was UVM's Ethan Foster in 11th. Rene Reisshauer won the event with a time of 30:49.1, who was followed by teammate John Stene, 21 seconds back in second place and Henrik Hoye of Colorado, 17 seconds back in third. Middlebury superstar Garrott Kuzzy '06 was the seventh fastest eastern skier and 23rd overall, while Beau Baldock '07 opted not to start after showing signs of the flu.

Middlebury's lone female representative, Evelyn Dong '07, saved her best performances for last as she finished fourth among eastern skiers and 22nd overall in the 5 km classic, eclipsing her best classic result of the season among eastern skiers by seven places. Mandy Kaempf of the University of Alaska Anchorage topped the podium with a time of 17:19.3, followed by Lindsay Williams of Northern Michigan in second and Martina Stursova of New Mexico in third.

"I was pretty happy just being at NCAA's and experiencing that level of competition," admitted Dong. "I think everything came together for me in the classic race. It's been my weaker event so I went into the race focused but not expecting much."

In the 15 km freestyle on Saturday, Dong impressed once again, placing fifth among eastern skiers and 24th overall. Dong finished three and a half minutes behind repeat winner, Kaempf, who completed the double with a time of 46:18.8. Kaempf's teammate Nicole Deyong finished second, 36 seconds back, while Stursova collected another bronze, 52 seconds back.

"Evelyn had an amazing weekend," commented Head Nordic Coach Terry Aldrich. "It was by far her best race of her life and she should be very happy with her performances."

On the men's side, Kuzzy's attempt to maintain his All-American status from a year ago was jeopardized before the skiers had even left the stadium in the 20 km mass start skate. As is the case with many mass starts, ski and poles often get tangled up and, unfortunately, Kuzzy was the lone victim.

"He fell and was last out of the stadium which meant that he had to expend an inordinate amount of energy to work his way up through the field," explained Aldrich.

Kuzzy would eventually catch the pack, but the leaders had already distanced themselves from the field, spoiling his chances of finishing in the top 10. When it was all said and done, Kuzzy had moved up 16 places to finish 22nd, while Baldock settled for 31st. Reisshauer made it two for two, taking the victory in 55:57.3, followed by Erling Christiansen of Colorado, 11 seconds back in second place, and Hoye, 12 seconds back in third once again.

"Garrott was disappointed with his result, however, he had a phenomenal year and was selected to the EISA All-East team (top five in the East) for the third consecutive year, so he should be proud of his accomplishments," said Aldrich.

That marks the conclusion of the racing season, however, several Panthers will compete at the US Alpine National Championships at Mammoth Mountain later this month.

Lindsay Brush

Senior John Rusten (left) earned All-American status while bringing home the silver medal in the national slalom.

Column as I see 'em

BY JEFF PATTERSON

Notre Dame and Indiana were locked out of the NCAA tournament when the seeds were unveiled Sunday evening. As a result, Indiana, whose state bird is Larry and whose state motto is "Play Basketball or Die," will have to host four first-round games without a hometown team in the mix. Couldn't they bend the rules a little for the men from South Bend? Couldn't the selection committee have pity for the Hoosiers, who were shafted when Charlotte's Brendan Plavich's half-court shot was counted, even though a later replay showed that the ball left his hand after time had expired?

The answer is no, but if you didn't know this, listen up. Indiana beat Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan State this year and if the right call had been made on December 22, they would have had four wins over Tournament-invited teams. Notre Dame, also contended with the chosen ones, as they beat Villanova, UConn and handed Boston College its first loss.

Yeah, St. Mary's is better than Notre Dame (Ca.) a Division II school, whom the Gaels blew-out 77-42 early in the season, but they would need a lot of luck to win a fight with Notre Dame. The Irish's first-round exit in the Big East Tournament to Rutgers shouldn't have given the spot to St. Mary's because they, too, failed to beat the Scarlet Knights in the regular season, while ND did. No Duh.

Northern Iowa, who made the 65-man field, instead of Indiana, finished fourth in the Missouri Valley Conference. Indiana finished tied for fourth in the Big Ten. Difference: the Big Ten has 11 teams; the MVC is overrated. Even if the Hoosiers were knocked-out early, first-year starters, D.J. White, A.J. Ratliff and Robert Vaden would have gotten tourney experience. Notre Dame is an excellent three-point shooting team and could potentially, if hot, beat anyone. Both teams are led by star guards that could take over games all by themselves. Chris Thomas (14.0 ppg., 6.6 apg.) and Bracey Wright (18.4 ppg., 4.8 rpg.) are two of the most talented players in the country, but will stay in NYC for the sake of basketball NIT.

Excluding the people in Indiana, today will be the start to the most exciting three and a half weeks of sports. March Madness could carry all that weight on its own, but the Red Sox will play the Yankees on Opening Day as well. Three days later, professional golfers will tee-it-up at the Masters. Note to my professors: if my work starts to slip, don't blame a banana peel; it'll be my eyes that will be constantly peeled to the TV screen. Total Vacuum.

With your mind on more important things over these next couple of weeks, don't forget to carry your MIDD access card with you at all times. The 24-hours lockdown is under effect. It's no fun to get locked out; be it from your home or the Carrier Dome.

Skaters rally together for NCAA win

Tense quarterfinal capped off with McNamara '07 goal in OT

Sixiao Huo

Manhattanville attackers surround junior netminder Kate Kogut and defender Margaret MacDonald '08 in Friday's dramatic NESCAC quarterfinal.

By Tom McCann
Sports Editor

It took 76 minutes of hockey, but the Panthers outlasted Manhattanville College to book their place in the NCAA semifinals this coming weekend. Middlebury earned the right to host the NCAA Quarter Final by thumping Bowdoin College in the NESCAC Championship game last week and as face-off approached, so the tension grew in Kenyon Arena.

Women's Hockey

Friday, March 11

Middlebury	3
Manhattanville	2

Indeed the game began at a breathtaking pace as sophomore Shannon Tarrant commented, "Both teams came out ready to go. It's a Quarter Final so it's do or die and your season could be over." The first period was barely four minutes old when sophomore Alison Graddock reacted first to a rebound off Tarrant's initial shot on a powerplay. The goal gave Middlebury the all-important opening goal of the night. Graddock's goal actually followed a period of sustained pressure from the Valiants during which Middlebury goaltender Kate Kogut '06 had to be at her sparkling best.

The lead didn't last long however, as Jennifer Mulick found a way past Kogut for the equalizing goal at the 8:03 mark.

Five minutes later, the Kenyon crowd was silenced as Cherie Stewart fired a slapshot off the post to beat Kogut for the second time in the period. A quick response was necessary, and sure enough, three minutes after falling behind, the Panthers were level again after Karen Levin '08 converted another powerplay opportunity, assisted by Tania Kerry '08 and Shannon Sylvester '07. A pulsating opening period came to a close with the score tied at two apiece.

With adrenaline levels through the roof, the Panthers had to compose themselves and decide how much the game meant to them before taking the ice for the second period. Tarrant commented, "We do everything for each other and we looked around the locker room and decided that we wanted to be there next weekend. We came out in the second period and we were ready to go."

A tense second period did not yield a goal for either team although Middlebury had a chance on a 5-on-3 powerplay, while at the other end Kogut had to produce an acrobatic diving save to deny the Valiants a third goal.

Moving into the third period Shannon noted, "We came out and we were so fired up. I knew we were going to win." Despite Tarrant's confidence, the teams still couldn't be separated after regulation. Manhattanvile came closest to breaking the deadlock when a shot found the outside of the post and rebounded to safety. Middlebury had its chances too, but as the horn sounded at the end of regulation, both teams remained inseparable at 2-2.

Tarrant described the scene in the locker room: "The emotions and excitement were something out of a movie. Everyone was so pumped." With fans sitting on the edge of their seats and nerves at breaking point, Manhattanville came within a lick of paint of ending the Panther dream as a deflected shot ricocheted off the post, slid along the line behind Kogut, and fell away from danger. The Valiants applied significant pressure to the Panther goal, but as opportunities went begging for both sides, it looked more and more likely as though another period would be necessary.

That was until Levin and Tory MacNeil '08 combined to win the puck deep in Panther territory before releasing sophomore superstar Emily McNamara on the left wing. She took the puck, composed herself, and fired a shot across Valiant's goaltender, Nicole Elliott, into the bottom corner for the game-winner.

The Panthers cleared the bench and celebrated one of the hardest of hard-earned wins, as a team united. Senior Allison Liati commented, "It was about who wanted it more and who had more heart. We wanted it more, we came together, and we got it done."

Tarrant echoed the sentiment: "All 24 of us came through and Bill Mandigo, our coach, was the most expressive I've ever seen him. It was fitting that his 300th win should be such a good game." Perhaps the most telling comment she made was, "Last year was an incredible season, but no win has ever felt as amazing as that one." As a team more together than ever before, the Panthers seem to be peaking at just the right time.

Following last year's march to the National Championship, the Panthers will make their second consecutive appearance at the NCAA semifinals. Middlebury will take on Gustavus Adolfus at 3:30pm on Friday March 18, while the final is slated for the following day at 7pm. On the challenge ahead, Tarrant commented, "I'm excited and I'm anxious. All four teams are so comparable that it's any team's tournament. Everyone is gunning for everyone." Liati added, "We played Gustavus earlier in the season and won in overtime so it could go either way. We've also never played at Elmira so that's exciting, and when you go on the road it's all about hockey. There are no distractions."

Feeding off the adrenaline of the win this past weekend, it would be a brave person that bets against the Panthers pulling off back-to-back National Championships. However, before that dream can become reality, there are 120 minutes of hockey against the other three best teams in the country to negotiate.

Nails will likely be bitten, the edge of seats will be sat on and pounding hearts will be in throats, but that's nothing new to this generation of fearless Middlebury Panthers.

Women's tennis warms up in 9-0 win

By Heather Wright
Staff Writer

The Middlebury College women's tennis team began their season on Saturday in a match against Brandeis. They decidedly defeated the Owls 9-0 giving the Panthers confidence as they prepare for their spring trip to California.

The Panthers solidly won all nine matches without dropping a single set. Claire Smyser '07 and Amy Roche '07, at number one and two singles respectively, faced relatively challenging opponents but were still able to come out decidedly on top. "Amy Berkman '08 stepped in to play third doubles and did a great job" said Co-Captain Maren Messing '06.

The Panthers were happy to open up their season facing the Owls. Messing said, "Brandeis is solid but much weaker than most of the teams we will face for the rest of the season, so it was a good opportunity for us to work on match play and get rid of early season jitters." It always takes a few matches to get into the season and now the Panthers have an idea of their strengths and weaknesses. They plan on working on their singles play in the upcoming week as they prepare for Spring Break in California where they will face many stronger teams. The women are excited to compete against more challenging opponents, such as Emory and DePauw, who are both ranked top 10 in the nation.

It was a good opportunity for us to work on match play and get rid of early season jitters.
— Maren Messing '06

Although the Panthers are a small team this season, they are very capable. They are sure to be a strong contender as they look to defend their NEWITT title from this fall. Their training trip to California will allow the Panthers to see how they stand up against the best division three teams in the country.

Frozen four — here we come

Midd wrecks Curry in 6-0 quarterfinal win

Sixiao Huo

Sophomore Brett Sheriffs gets tangled up against the boards with a Curry defender in Saturday's quarterfinal.

By Jason Lockhart
Staff Writer

In what was touted to be a back and forth game between two highly skilled and fast men's hockey teams, there was no disappointment, as Middlebury and Curry combined for 73 shots. However, Curry was unable to keep pace with the speed and skill of Middlebury as the Panthers cruised to a 6-0 win backed by Ross Cherry's '08 shutout and a three goal outburst in the second period.

After fighting their way to get into the NCAA Tournament by taking out Colby and Bowdoin in the NESCAC tournament, Middlebury earned a berth into the NCAA Semifinals, and the right to host the NCAA Division III Championship for the fourth time in 11 years.

In their run of 11 consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances, the Panthers have advanced to the semifinals in nine of the 11 years, losing only to Plattsburgh in the quarterfinals in 2000 and 2001.

Men's Hockey

Saturday, March 12th

Middlebury	6
Curry	0

Middlebury has faced the ECAC Northeast Champion three out of the last four seasons in the NCAA Quarterfinals, twice defeating Wentworth in that span, in 2002 and 2004.

The Panthers almost repeated last year's performance in the NCAA quarterfinals when Evgeny Saidachev '07 buried one past Wentworth just 45 seconds into the game. This year Mickey Gilchrist '08 streaked in with linemate Justin Gaines '08 and fired one past Curry goaltender Lenny Mosca just seconds into the game. However, Gaines was called for a crease violation only moments before Gilchrist shot the puck.

"Right from the start I thought we moved the puck well, made good decisions and played with a lot of energy and emotion," reflected Middlebury Head Coach Bill Beaney. The goals would come eventually though, and in bunches.

The Panthers opened the scoring as Tim Graham '05 forechecked hard to free the puck in the offensive zone. Jocko DeCarolis '07 picked the puck up, drove to the net and put one past Mosca on his backhand with 8:23 remaining in the first period.

After being frustrated by unlucky bounces and desperatation plays by Curry defenders, the Panthers found their stride in the second period.

Shady Young '06 drew the puck back off a face-off in the offensive zone. Rob MacIntyre '08 then threw the puck towards the net, and Eric LaFreniere '07, who was streaking towards the net was able to deflect it between the pads of Mosca, to give the Panthers a 2-0 lead with 8:09 remaining in the second period.

From there, special teams took over, as Curry came into the game as the most penalized team in the nation and did not disappoint, giving the Panthers 13 power play opportunities on the evening. Middlebury entered the game as the sixth least penalized team, but still committed eight infractions during the game.

As Rob Sequeira was off for two minutes for a contact to the head penalty, the Panthers finally scored on their seventh power play advantage. Brett Shirreffs '07 fired a shot from the point that was deflected in front by a Curry skater before going just under the crossbar for a Panthers 3-0 lead with 7:14 left.

Middlebury's power play advantage was not done, however, as Nathaniel Robie was called for a high-sticking penalty immediately following Shirreffs' goal. This time Saidachev, from behind the net, found Doria streaking into the slot and fed him for a pass. Doria found an opening high over the blocker side of Mosca to give the Panthers a 4-0 lead with 6:16 remaining in the second period.

After MacIntyre missed a golden opportunity in the first period to score on a breakaway, he got a second chance in the third period. MacIntyre rushed in all alone, deked to the forehand and then backhanded one past first-year goaltender Michael Ronan as the Panthers went up 5-0. Ronan replaced Mosca at the beginning of the third period

Middlebury put the icing on the cake as Curry was on its eighth power play of the game. Ronan came way out of his net to play the puck away from Driver, but Gaines intercepted the pass. Gaines lost the puck in his skates, but Driver picked it up and buried it past a couple sliding Curry defenders to give the Panthers a 6-0 lead with 3:54 remaining in the third period.

The Panthers will now move on to face New England College, who upset the No. 1 east seed Manhattanville.

Curry, however, could not muster many opportunities. Their best chance came as Sam Driver '08 fell down in the first period as Bret Adams came streaking down the left-wing side. Adams made a move on goal, but Cherry aggressively came out of his net and poked the puck away. It was one of very few odd-man rushes that the nation's second leading defense gave up the entire game.

"It's always nice to get a shutout, but the big story was our guys getting six goals, to make it a lot easier on me," said Cherry who earned his second shutout of the season. "It's a lot less pressure when it's a four or five nothing game compared to one nothing."

One of the biggest disappointments of the game for Curry had to be their captain Brian Doherty. He came into the game third in the nation in points, but was a non-factor in this game, only generating a few chances on the power play.

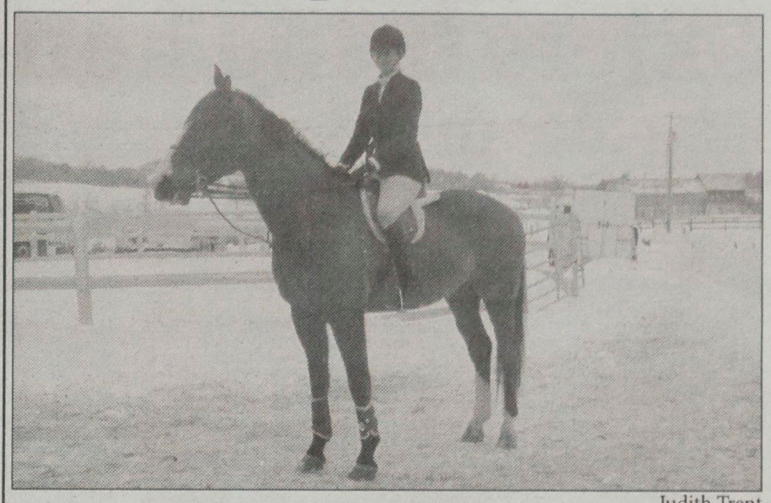
Cherry attributes the win to the intensity of his teammates, stating "These guys are playing hard every night. We win games because these guys play hard, going down to block shots and winning battles."

Middlebury will host the NCAA Championship for the second time at the Chip Kenyon '85 Arena. Beaney admitted that, "People on the outside might think it's an advantage to host, but there's lot of extra pressure that goes on with hosting. We're hopefully going to be able to deal with those distractions and continue to play at the level we've been playing at over the last three weeks."

SPORTSBRIEFS

BY RYAN REESE, SPORTS EDITOR

Equestrian prances at Midd



Judith Trent

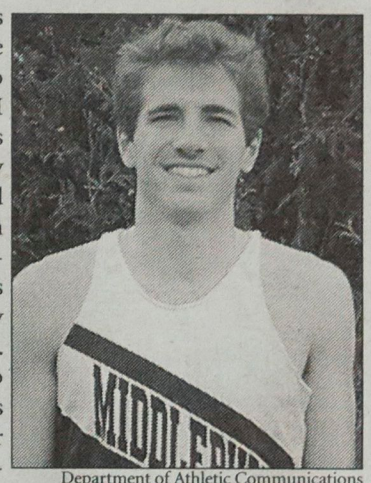
This past Sunday, the Middlebury equestrian team hosted its own invitational meet. With competitors traveling from throughout New England, the meet went off without a hitch. The team's stables, located in New Haven, Vt., were bustling all day as the competitors primped and prepped themselves and did the same for their trusty steeds. The English riders competed and upheld the proud and regal tradition that is equestrian, the sport of kings. With trusty mounts such as Iceman, Rowan and Hobbes, the University of Vermont (UVM) trotted and cantered their way to the title. The Panther squad did themselves proud as Coach Kate Selby noted that the meet "restored my faith in the Middlebury equestrian program." Captain, Mercy Trent '06, led the cavalry charge with a third place finish in jumping and brought home the second place red ribbon in the open flat competition. The team will not be back in the saddle again this year as the home meet was the last. As this year's equestrian season rides off into the sunset, one need not beat a dead horse in describing the 2005 campaign as a success.

Men's hockey hosts Frozen Four

The triumphant Middlebury men's hockey team skated to another victory this past Saturday night. The Panthers trounced visiting Curry College in a dominating display of offensive firepower and defensive fortitude. The 6-0 romp was a pleasant surprise as Curry was touted as the best offensive team in the country. Their ability to score goals did not make the trip up from Massachusetts and their golf season is already in full swing. As for the Panthers, they will play host to the NCAA Frozen Four this upcoming weekend. With the semi-finals being played on Friday, March 18 and the Champion being crowned the next day, there is no doubt that Kenyon Arena will be the site of some dramatic hockey.

Middlebury will face off against New England College in the second semi-final on Friday. New England won their quarterfinal match-up against Manhattanville by a count of 4-2. In the other game of the day, the always-dangerous Trinity Bantams will be taking on the team from the west, St. Thomas. All-access tickets that grant entrance to all the weekend's games are being sold for $25 dollars.

Digani '05 cruises at NCAAs



Department of Athletic Communications

This past weekend, Middlebury's human bullet, Nick Digani '05 made his way to Bloomigton, Il. in order to compete in the NCAA Division III Championships. The competition was hosted at Illinois Wesleyan University and highlighted the country's best and brightest track stars. When Digani, an Illinois native, headed home to compete, he had accomplished one of his main objectives for the season simply by being invited to the national meet. With lofty goals, the senior lined up against his competitors in the men's 800m run. Digani was put in the slower heat and concluded his impressive indoor track career with a time of 1:55.67. A few weeks prior to the NCAAs, Digani handed in a stellar 1:53 that would have placed him in the top runners. He finished fourth in his respective heat and was edged out of the finals by 0.32 seconds. This blink of an eye denied the gutsy competitor the recognition of being an All-American. The outdoor season lies ahead and there is no doubt that the accomplished senior will end his Middlebury running career in high fashion.

NESCAC names smart squad

Upon conclusion of the majority of this year's winter sports action, the New England Small College Athletic Conference named their prestigious Winter All-NESCAC Academic Team. This honor is bestowed upon those athletes who have reached junior academic status. These student-athletes must earn a varsity letter in their respective sports and also maintain and uphold a grade point average of 3.35 or higher. Needless to say, many of Middlebury's athletes excel both on and off the field. Their achievements in the classroom mirror their success in competition. Twenty-five Panther athletes met these standards and were rewarded with this great recognition from the NESCAC. Nearly all of the winter sports had a representative on this squad. With such high demands in the classroom and taxing workouts and practices every day, these Panthers exemplify what it means to excel, succeed and dominate in multiple areas.

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GAMES TO WATCH

MEN'S HOCKEY
VS. NEW ENGLAND
MAR. 18 | 7:00 | KENYON

MEN'S LACROSSE
VS. SPRINGFIELD
MAR. 19 | 3:00 | TURF

campus sports
THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2005

Skiers bring home hardware from NCAAs

By Kellan Florio
Staff Writer

Competing against a field studded with former Olympians, world junior champions and national team members from all over the world, Megan Hughes '08 and John Rusten '05 turned in heroic performances to lead the Middlebury alpine and nordic teams into eighth place overall at the NCAA Championships held at Stowe Mountain Resort and the Trapp Family Lodge, Vt. last week. The University of Denver claimed their 18th NCAA title, their fourth in the last six years, with a total of 622.5 points. Host school University of Vermont (UVM) came up short in their bid for their first title since 1994 and finished second for the fourth time over that stretch with 575 points. The University of Utah (545) finished just ahead of last year's champion New Mexico (518) in third, while Dartmouth College (486) rounded out the top five.

Warm weather early in the week followed by subzero temperatures on Tuesday night made for ideal conditions for the giant slalom on Wednesday. With bulletproof ice on Hayride — Stowe's racetrail favoring the eastern skiers, the GS was more like an eastern carnival as the east swept the podium in both the men's and women's events.

Leading the Panthers in the giant slalom was co-captain Rusten. Coming off his best giant slalom result of the season at the Middlebury Carnival two weeks ago, Rusten fed off that momentum to capture fourth place, earning him All-American honors for the second time in his illustrious career. Known for his smooth, tactical approach, Rusten surprised the spectators with an unusually straight line near the bottom of his first run that almost resulted in hooking a tip in mid-air, but somehow he was able to make it through unscathed. His combined time of 1:46.08 left him only six hundredths of a second from a podium spot, occupied by Williams College first-year Charles Christiansen. Greg Hardy of UVM took the victory on his home hill in 1:45.49, while Warner Nickerson of Colby was just two hundredths behind in second. Clayton Reed '08 finished in a respectable 15th place for the Panthers, while 2003 All-American Dave Coriell '06 finished 19th.

Lindsay Brush

First-year Megan Hughes stands atop the national podium at the apex of her sport. Hughes took home the title in the slalom.

"I had nothing to lose since I hadn't been skiing that well in giant slalom all year, so I went for it hard, especially on the first run," commented Rusten. "On the second run I made a pretty big mistake on the top of the pitch, which pissed me off so I let it hang out at the bottom. I could have been a little faster, but obviously I'm happy with the result."

The women struggled to match the men's performance in Wednesday's giant slalom as the harsh conditions claimed both Jess Smith '04.5 and Hughes in the first run, leaving only Tara Martin '07 standing for the second run. Martin came through with a solid afternoon finish to take 12th place overall. UVM's Jamie Kingsbury annihilated the field picking up her second NCAA GS victory by 2.5 seconds over Abbi Lathrop of Colby. Courtney Calise of Dartmouth finished in third, just three hundredths behind Lathrop.

Friday's slalom proved to be a memorable one for the Panthers as Hughes moved up from second after the first run and held off a late charge from Tina Salo of the University of Ne-

See Rusten, page 21

Swimmers make waves at national meet

Midd finishes ninth with Ross '08 and Truex '05 winning national titles

By Sarah Poling Luehrman
Staff Writer

Last weekend, Middlebury Swimming and Diving sent a small, elite team of women to the NCAA Division III Championships, where they placed ninth out of 53 teams attending for the second year in a row. The Panthers' strong performance at NCAA's was the culminating event in an amazingly successful season.

Senior captain Tessa Truex reflects on "great individual as well as team performances" as well as tremendous team unity throughout the winter. "Some people in the stands [at nationals] and from other teams actually commented on how much fun we looked like we were having and how much team spirit we embodied," says Truex. "It really just felt good to be recognized that way."

The team will miss its captains and other seniors who graduate in June, but the strength of the younger team members speaks for itself. Some of the most noteworthy swimmers on the squad still have three seasons ahead of them in fact, almost half of the national team was made up of first year swimmers.

Truex, NESCAC diver of the year and national diving champion, contributed incredible skill to her final season as a Middlebury diver. She won the NCAA event with 378.80 points. Truex has won almost every diving event she has participated in since the beginning of the season. Her skills have steadily improved since her strong performance last season.

The Panthers boasted not just one, but two national champions upon returning home from NCAA's. Marika Ross '08 came home as the NCAA champion in the 200yd fly event with her time of 2:02.25, setting a new school and NESCAC record. She also earned a second place win in the 400yd IM with a time of 4:29.57, another school record. Her time of 2:06.0 in the 200yd IM earned her All-American status.

Ross has had a truly phenomenal season she seemed to break a record every time she stepped onto the blocks. She has brought considerable recognition to the team as a first year, and will undoubtedly continue to do so throughout her Middlebury swimming career.

Sara Cowie '08, too, culminated an incredible first season of record breaking swimming with an All-American title in the 1,650m free. She placed fifth in the event with a time of 17:17.10, and 10th in the 500yd free with a time of 5:03.32.

In addition to many strong individual performances, both of Middlebury's relay teams finished in the top eight and attained All-American status. Ross, Barbara Van der Veer '07, Liz Rice '07 and Pam Chatikavanij '08 made up the 400yd free relay team, which came in fifth with a time of 3:31.75. The 800yd relay team of Cowie, Ross, Mollie Reed '06 and Katie Chambers '08 placed eighth with 7:46.14.

The results that Middlebury saw at the Division III championships reflected a season of hard training and a deep commitment to the team over the course of the entire campaign. The highlight of the season for many was the first NESCAC championship held in the Natatorium, for the team's graduating members, "the perfect way to finish up our swimming and diving careers," according to Truex. She specifically cites "the coaches, namely Lisa Gibbs my diving coach, Peter Solomon the swim coach and Norma Leduc, our assistant swim coach and team cheerleader" as the creators and leaders of an exceptional team. "They are well-respected and loved by everyone."

Julia Randall

The Panther swimmers were at the top of their game over the weekend and handed in stunning results at the national meet.